

CHAPTER 6

CONTRACEPTION AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF USE

In this chapter the level of contraceptive awareness and the knowledge of how to use contraceptive methods are analyzed. Men and women of reproductive age in Albania were also asked about their sources of information regarding contraception and their opinion on contraceptive effectiveness. The information described in this chapter can help family planning program planners assess the overall knowledge on contraception and make informed decisions on how and where to strengthen information, education and communication programs on contraception.

Contraceptive Awareness and Knowledge of Use

Almost all of the Albanian women were aware of at least one method of contraception (97%), with 90% aware of at least one modern method. The most frequently known modern methods were condoms (81%), pills (68%), and tubal ligation (68%). More than half of the women had never heard of other modern methods. For example, spermicides were recognized as a contraceptive method by only 5% of the women. In addition, Albanian women demonstrated a relatively high awareness of traditional methods (86%) with withdrawal being the most frequently known traditional method (85%). Only one-fourth of the women were aware of periodic abstinence as a contraceptive method (Table 6.1A).

The level of awareness of any contraceptive method was highest among women who lived in urban areas other than Tirana, were between the age of 40 to 44 years, married, and more educated. Modern contraceptive awareness was almost universal among residents of Tirana and other urban areas. Not surprisingly, women from rural areas

were overall less aware of any contraceptive method than their urban and Tirana residents' counterparts. Between Tirana and other urban areas, the level of condom and pill awareness were similar. However, in urban areas and Tirana awareness of tubal ligation (76% vs. 70% respectively) and injectables (43% vs 41% respectively) was slightly higher among residents of other urban areas. Awareness of emergency contraception, vasectomy, and spermicides was less than 11% and among rural residents was less than 6%.

Traditional methods were also more frequently recognized by women of urban residence. Among traditional methods, the largest gap in awareness was for periodic abstinence (33% vs. 19%).

Awareness of both modern and traditional methods among women was directly correlated with age (Table 6.1A). Almost all women aged 20 and older were aware of at least one contraceptive method. Awareness of modern methods had a weak inverse relationship with age for women aged 20 and older, while for traditional methods, level of awareness increased with the respondent's age. The best known methods for the youngest group were condoms (79%), pills (58%), and withdrawal (53%). However, among the oldest age group, withdrawal was the most recognized method (99%), followed by tubal ligation (79%), condoms (73%), and pills (64%). Only about one third of the 15-19 year olds have heard of tubal ligation as a contraceptive method.

Almost all women knew at least one modern method (87- 94%) regardless of their marital status. Withdrawal was the most widely known method among currently (100%) and previously married

(99%) women, while never married women had mostly heard of condoms (82%). Currently married women were familiar with condoms as much as tubal ligation (80%), followed by pills (70%). However, awareness of modern methods was greatest among previously married women (94%), and tubal ligation and pills ranked second and third respectively after condoms.

Among the female respondents, the awareness of both modern and traditional methods was directly correlated with their level of education (Table 6.1A). The difference in modern method awareness between the least educated women and those with post secondary education ranges from 29% for condoms to 92% for spermicides. The smallest gap in the level of awareness by education level is for withdrawal. Overall, more educated women had slightly higher awareness of modern methods than traditional methods.

Awareness of contraceptive methods by men was almost universal (Table 6.1B) and slightly higher than overall women's awareness. About 99% of men in the survey knew at least one contraceptive method, mainly withdrawal and condoms (89% each). However, more than two-thirds of men have not heard about other contraceptive methods. Among modern methods, pills were recognized by only one third of men, followed by tubal ligation and emergency contraception (15% and 10% respectively). Fewer men had heard of IUDs (8%), injectables (6%), vasectomy (5%), and spermicides (4%). Less than one-fourth of men knew about periodic abstinence as a contraceptive method.

By residence, the level of contraceptive awareness among men had little variation among Tirana residents and residents of other urban or rural areas (Table 6.1B). Urban residents (Tirana and other urban areas)

were more aware of modern contraceptive methods than traditional methods (94% and 96% vs. 91%, respectively), while rural residents have heard of traditional methods more than modern ones (88% vs. 84%). Tirana residents had the highest level of awareness for all methods of contraception except for condoms and withdrawal, which had a slightly higher level of awareness among residents of other urban areas. Awareness of all modern methods was lowest for men in rural areas.

Contraceptive awareness (any method) was lowest, but still more than 90%, among 15-19 year old men (94%), however it was virtually universal among those aged 20 and older. Awareness of modern contraceptive methods had an inverse relationship with age after age 20, with awareness in the mid 90% for ages 25 to 34, mid 80% for ages 35 to 44, and 69% for ages 45 to 49. Nonetheless, this relationship was positive for traditional methods. Younger men (aged 15-19) were more aware of modern contraceptive methods than traditional ones (91% vs. 55%).

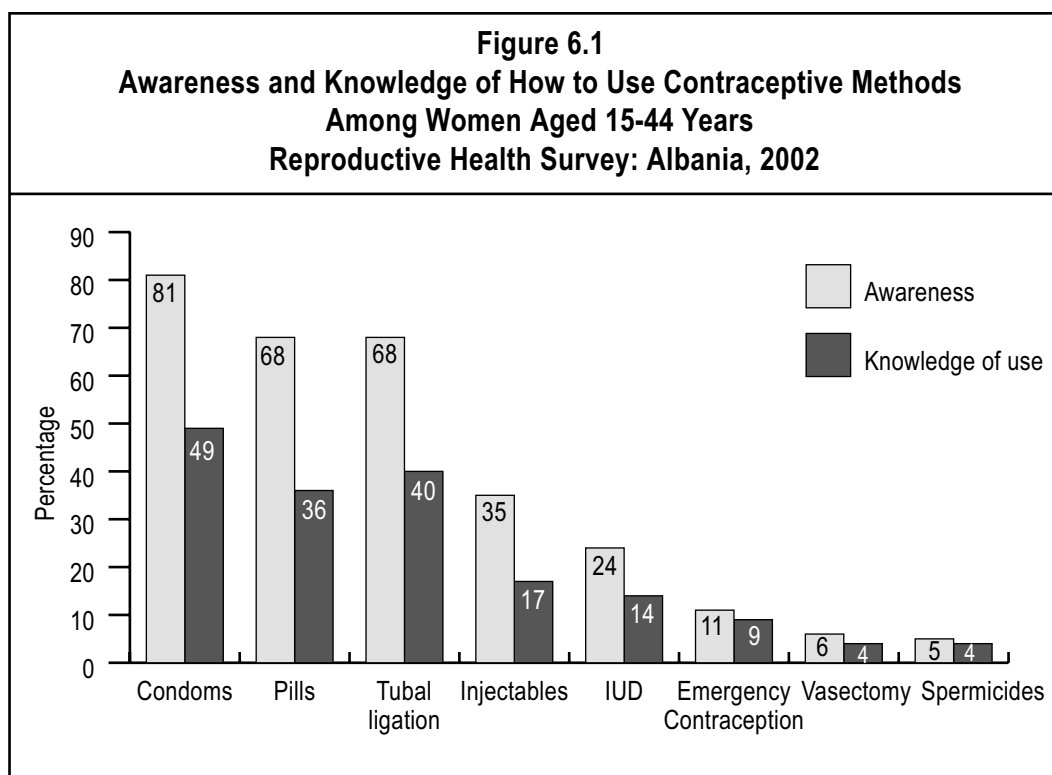
Never married men had greater awareness of modern contraceptive methods than currently married men (95% vs. 86%). Although virtually all currently married men have heard of at least one traditional contraceptive method, less than three-fourths of never married men were aware of traditional methods. As shown in Table 6.1B there were only 14 male respondents who were previously married, thus percentages for this group were not calculated.

The awareness of both modern and traditional contraceptive methods was directly associated with men's educational level (Table 6.1B). The gap in the level of awareness between the most and the least educated men was 19 percentage points for condoms, the best known method. For other

modern methods the difference between post-secondary and primary or less educated men, was even greater.

Male and female respondents who have heard of at least one contraceptive method were asked whether they knew how to use the method. Among women, knowledge of how to use any method, modern or traditional was lower than the corresponding awareness of the method (59% vs. 90% for any modern and 80% vs. 86% for any traditional), (Tables 6.1A and 6.2A). The proportion of women who knew how to use specific methods was considerably lower than the corresponding awareness of methods. This gap was largest for the most widely known modern methods: condoms, pill, tubal ligation, injectables, and IUD (Figure 6.1). Although 81% of women

have heard of condoms, only slightly less than half of them stated that they knew how to use them (49%). The gap between awareness and knowledge of how to use the method was greatest for the pill (68% vs. 36%) and injectables (35% vs. 17%). The proportion of women who knew how tubal ligation and IUD protect against pregnancy was about 40% less than the proportion who have heard about them (68% vs. 40% and 24% vs. 14%, respectively). A relatively smaller gap between awareness of method and knowledge of its use was present for other modern methods (emergency contraception, vasectomy, and spermicides). The percentage of women who were aware of periodic abstinence and withdrawal were slightly different from the percentage who knew how to use them (85% vs. 79% and 25% vs. 20% respectively).



Among the female respondents, the gap between awareness of modern methods and knowledge of how to use them had a slight urban-rural variation, with a 10 percentage point gap among residents of Tirana and other urban areas vs. 13% among rural residents (Table 6.2A). Although 95% of urban residents had heard of at least one modern method, their knowledge of how to use them was substantially lower (70% and 66% among residents of Tirana and other urban areas respectively). Again, the difference between awareness of modern methods and knowledge of how to use them was greatest among rural residents (83% vs. 53%). The urban-rural variation in the knowledge of specific contraceptive methods was considerable. Knowledge of how to use condoms was to some extent lower among rural women (42%) than residents of urban areas (57% and 61% other urban and Tirana respectively). Women in rural areas had also considerably lower knowledge of the pill (29% v. 44% and 46%), injectables (13% vs. 22% and 23%), and IUD (10% vs. 19% and 20%) than other urban and Tirana residents. Women in the urban areas had 3-4 times greater knowledge about how emergency contraception and vasectomy prevent pregnancy than rural residents (12%-17% vs. 4% and 6%-8% vs. 2% respectively).

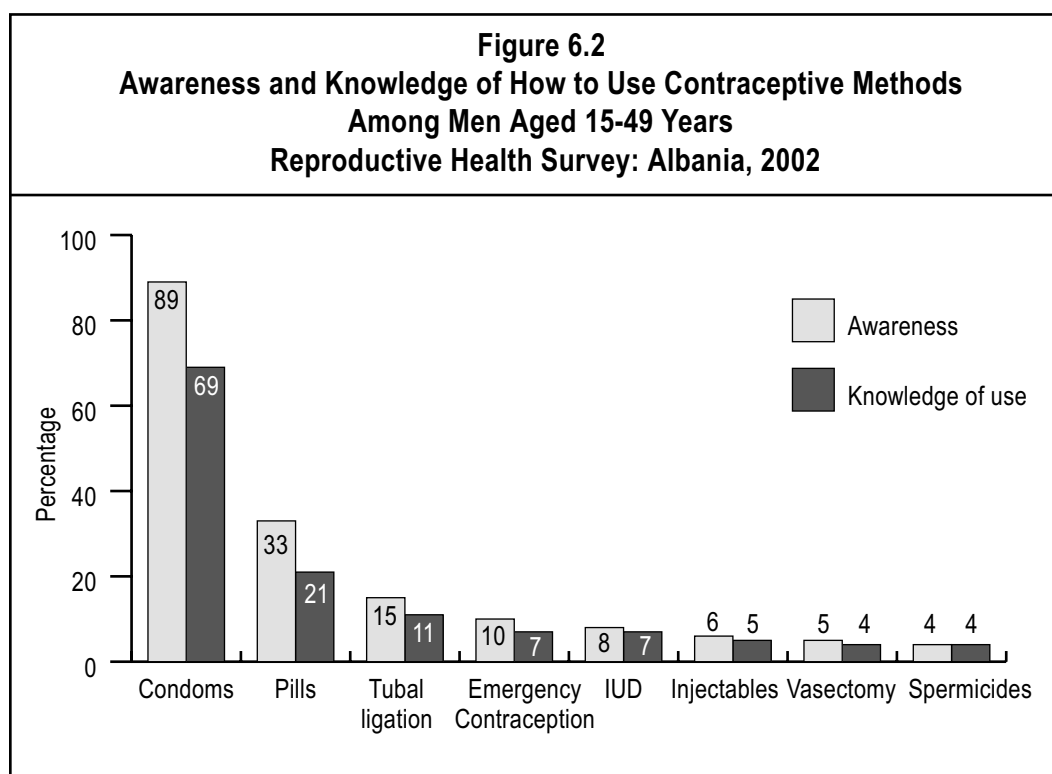
Regarding the age of respondents, among women, the difference between awareness of contraceptive methods and knowledge of how to use them was greatest among youngest women (88% vs. 57%) and smallest among women aged 35 and older (99%-100% vs. 97-98%). Although 86% of women aged 15-19 have heard of at least one modern contraceptive method, only about half of them knew how to use them. The knowledge of how to use specific contraceptive methods was highest among women aged 20-24 for condoms (56%); among women aged 30-34 for the pill (40%);

among women aged 35-39 for tubal ligation (52%); and among women aged 25-34 for injectables (22%). The percentage of women who knew how to use withdrawal improved with increase in age of the respondent (from 39% for 15-19 year olds to 98% for 40-44 year olds). A similar increase for periodic abstinence (10% to 22%) is also observed.

Among currently and previously married women, there were no differences in contraceptive awareness and knowledge of use. However, never married women had a 32 percentage point gap between their contraceptive awareness and knowledge of use (89% vs. 57%). Knowledge of how to use modern methods was greatest among women who were previously married (75%), followed by married women (63%). Knowledge of how withdrawal works against pregnancy was universal among previously and currently married women (99%).

Women's education is directly associated with knowledge of how to use contraceptive methods. The gap in the knowledge of how to use modern methods between the least educated and the most educated women was greatest for condoms (41 percentage points) and the pills (42 percentage points).

Among the male respondents, knowledge of how to use modern contraceptive methods was lower than their corresponding awareness (70% vs. 89%). However, this gap was only 2 percentage points for traditional methods (Table 6.2B). While 89% of men have heard of condoms, only 69% of them knew how to correctly use them. The proportion of men who knew how other modern contraceptive methods prevent pregnancy was relatively small, hence, the gap between knowledge of how to use and corresponding awareness was smaller: 21% vs. 33% for the pills; 11% vs. 15% for tubal ligation; and 7% vs. 10% for emergency contraception (Figure 6.2).



Knowledge of how contraceptive methods work had a slight urban-rural variation among the male respondents. The largest gap between knowledge of contraceptive use and the corresponding awareness was among rural residents (90% vs. 98%), followed by residents of Tirana (94% vs. 100%) and other urban areas (94% vs. 99%). Although 60% of men in the rural areas knew how to use condoms, a considerably smaller percentage of them knew how the pills and tubal ligation prevents pregnancy (12% and 10%, respectively). The urban-rural variation for traditional methods was relatively small (89% vs. 86%).

With respect to age groups, there was only a slight gap in knowledge on how to use contraceptive methods and the corresponding awareness for respondent men 25 years and older. Meanwhile, younger men (aged 15-19) had a huge gap between knowledge of how to use contraception and awareness of it (64% vs. 94%). While 91% of men aged 15-19 have heard of at least one contraceptive method, slightly more than half of them

knew how to use them. Knowledge about how to use condoms was highest among men aged 20-24 (86%) and lowest among the oldest age group (51%). On the other hand, all the men in the oldest group stated that they knew how the withdrawal method works, while only half of the youngest respondents stated that they knew how to use withdrawal. One reason for this could be that 80% of adolescent men reported that they are not yet sexually experienced and therefore had not yet started to think about using contraceptives

Among men, all married men and 80% of never married men stated that they knew how to use at least one contraceptive method (Table 6.2B). The difference between awareness of modern contraceptive methods and knowledge of how to use them had only a slight variation according to the men's marital status. Never married men had greater knowledge of how to use all modern methods than married men, except for tubal ligation (7% vs. 14%). On the other hand, all married men knew how to

use withdrawal while only 68% of never married men knew how it was used.

According to marital status, all men with post-secondary education knew how to use at least one contraceptive method. The difference between awareness of contraceptive methods and knowledge of how to use them among men with secondary and primary or less education was 9 and 6 percentage points, respectively.

Knowledge about Contraceptive Source

The Albania Reproductive Health Survey included questions about source of modern methods of contraception for both women and men. About three fourths of women knew where to get condoms; almost two thirds knew a source for the pills; more than half knew where to get tubal ligation; and 30% knew a source for injectables (Table 6.3A). However, only 21% and 10% of women knew where to get IUDs and emergency contraception respectively. Very few knew a source for spermicides or where vasectomies are performed.

Knowledge of a source for contraceptive methods was higher among residents of urban areas (91% Tirana and 92% other urban) than rural residents (76%). Knowledge about where to get contraceptive methods had little variation among different age groups, with the highest among women aged 35-39 (87%). Previously married women had the highest knowledge of contraceptive sources (87%) and women with the highest education had almost universal knowledge of where to get contraceptive methods, especially for condoms (97%) and pills (93%).

Knowledge of a source for contraceptive methods among men was highest for condoms (70%). A substantially smaller proportion of men knew where to get pills

(26%), or where vasectomy procedure is performed (4%) (Table 6.3B). Among men, knowledge of contraceptive sources was highest among Tirana residents (82%); men aged 20-24 (89%); never married men (79%); and men with a post-secondary education (94%). The difference between the highest educated and the least educated men in regard to the knowledge of a source was 35% for condoms, 82% for the pills, 65% for tubal ligation, 88% for emergency contraception and IUD, 83% for vasectomy, and 85% for spermicides.

Most Important Source of Information about Contraception

Survey respondents were asked their most important source of information regarding specific contraceptive methods (Table 6.4A). Among women, the most important sources of information for condoms and pills were television or radio (64%, and 50% respectively), followed by friends (15% pills and 22% condoms). Friends were the most important source of information about IUDs (32%), injectables (46%), tubal ligation (43%) and periodic abstinence (60%). The second most important source of information about IUDs (25%) and injectables (16%) were television and radio; about tubal ligation was a physician (17%), and about periodic abstinence was a relative (13%). A partner or husband was the most important source of information for withdrawal (78%).

Among men, television or radio were mentioned by half of the men as the most important source of information for condoms and the pills, followed by friends for condoms (24%) and books/newspaper/magazine for the pill (18%) (Table 6.4B). The same proportion of men (28%) named television or radio and a physician as the most important sources of information for tubal ligation. The most important source of information regarding injectables and IUDs

were the media (37% and 26% respectively). The most important sources of information about withdrawal were friends and coworkers (72%); for periodic abstinence, the most important sources were their partner or wife and coworkers (40%).

Knowledge about Contraceptive Effectiveness

Tables 6.5A and 6.5B lists contraceptive methods according to their theoretical effectiveness as published by the United States Food and Drug Agency (USFDA) (2002)¹. Implants and vasectomy have the lowest failure rate (0.09 -0.1 pregnancies per 100 women) and therefore are the most effective methods. However, they are not widely available in Albania. The pills (combined oral contraceptives) have an expected failure rate of 0.1 pregnancies per 100 women if used correctly and consistently, but with typical use, the failure rate increases to 5 pregnancies per 100 women. The next effective methods are injectables, tubal ligation, and IUDs with failure rates of 0.3, 0.5 and 0.6 pregnancies per 100 women respectively when used correctly. Male condoms and other barrier methods have higher failure rates of 3-6 pregnancies per 100 women, and are less effective with the typical use (14-26 pregnancies per 100 women). Traditional methods are the least effective in preventing pregnancies.

Among women who have heard of modern methods, less than 20% thought that modern contraceptive methods were very effective. Condoms were the exception, with 18% of women considering them very effective (Table 6.5A). The proportion of women who were aware of a specific modern method and believed that they are very effective or effective was 57% for the pills, 51% for injectables, 72% for tubal ligation, 58% for IUDs, and 54% for condoms. On the other hand, 87% of women who have heard of withdrawal, the least effective method, believed that it is very effective or effective.

Among men, because of a very low awareness of modern contraceptive methods, the proportion that considered them as very effective or effective was small (Table 6.5B). After excluding men who were not aware of a specific contraceptive method, the proportion of men who believed certain methods were very effective or effective was 65% for the pills, 94% for tubal ligation, and 78% for condoms. Among men who have heard of periodic abstinence or withdrawal, 70% and 80%, respectively, considered them to be very effective or effective .

¹ <http://www.fda.gov/fdac/features/1997/conceptbl.html>

Table 6.1 A
Percentage of Women Aged 15-44
Who Have Heard of Specific Methods of Contraception by Selected Characteristics
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Contraceptive Method	Residence				Age					Marital Status			Education			
	Total	Tirana	Other		15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	Married	Previously Married	Never Married	Primary or Less	Secondary	Post-Secondary
			Urban	Rural												
Any Method	96.5	97.5	98.2	95.2	88.0	97.0	99.3	99.3	98.6	99.6	99.9	99.3	89.4	94.5	98.5	100.0
Any Modern Method	89.6	95.3	94.9	85.2	85.5	92.0	92.7	91.4	90.6	86.9	90.9	94.0	86.9	83.5	96.2	99.8
Condoms	81.3	90.9	90.5	73.4	79.3	87.0	86.2	81.3	80.9	72.7	80.4	89.3	82.4	70.9	92.2	99.1
Pills	68.0	79.4	79.0	58.8	58.3	73.4	76.2	70.8	68.2	64.1	69.3	77.5	65.0	56.1	79.0	95.9
Tubal Ligation	67.6	69.8	75.6	62.5	36.2	59.6	77.9	81.7	83.0	79.0	80.3	82.8	41.2	60.3	73.8	86.9
Injectables	34.9	41.3	43.4	28.4	20.3	33.7	43.6	41.0	40.2	35.4	39.9	42.4	24.5	27.1	41.5	55.8
IUD	24.2	34.6	32.9	16.4	9.6	23.1	27.3	32.7	30.1	27.2	28.8	25.8	14.9	15.1	30.9	52.6
Emergency Contraception	10.7	20.8	15.2	5.3	8.6	14.2	10.9	13.4	9.5	7.9	10.3	10.6	11.5	4.9	12.6	40.3
Vasectomy	6.0	13.7	8.0	2.7	3.6	6.4	8.1	6.9	6.6	5.3	6.2	6.6	5.6	1.5	8.7	24.0
Spermicides	5.0	11.1	5.6	2.9	2.6	6.2	5.7	6.2	6.2	3.8	4.8	9.3	5.0	1.6	6.6	20.1
Any Traditional Method	86.0	86.8	90.5	83.3	55.0	82.9	94.5	97.4	98.3	99.4	99.8	99.3	57.8	83.9	86.8	95.7
Withdrawal	85.0	85.9	89.0	82.6	52.8	81.6	93.3	96.8	98.1	99.3	99.7	99.3	54.9	83.5	85.2	94.0
Periodic abstinence (rhythm method)	25.2	33.0	33.1	18.6	12.5	26.2	29.9	32.0	27.1	27.9	29.4	27.2	16.7	16.8	29.3	62.0
No. of Cases	5,697	2,108	1,816	1,773	1,094	936	946	1,067	958	696	3,965	88	1,644	2,519	2,483	695

Table 6.1 B
Percentage of Men Aged 15-49 Who Have Heard of
Specific Methods of Contraception by Selected Characteristics
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

	Residence			Age							Marital Status*			Education		
	Total	Tirana	Other Urban	Rural	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	Married	Never Married	Primary Or Less	Secondary	Post-Secondary
Contraceptive Method																
Any Method	98.6	99.6	99.3	97.8	93.6	99.9	100.0	100.0	99.3	99.4	100.0	99.7	96.9	97.2	99.8	100.0
Any Modern Method	89.4	94.1	95.7	83.9	91.0	99.7	95.5	95.6	87.6	83.4	68.8	85.9	94.9	81.4	96.3	99.8
Condoms	88.6	93.9	95.5	82.5	91.0	99.0	94.7	95.2	85.0	83.4	67.6	84.9	94.7	80.4	95.7	99.1
Pills	32.7	51.8	42.3	19.5	26.2	42.7	45.4	38.0	28.6	27.9	20.4	28.7	38.3	16.7	40.6	80.7
Tubal Ligation	14.8	18.5	18.3	11.2	6.0	8.0	16.6	18.9	22.2	20.1	15.0	18.5	9.1	10.4	15.8	33.4
Emergency Contraception	10.1	16.2	15.0	4.9	8.3	13.1	10.7	16.8	7.3	9.3	5.4	8.5	12.6	4.9	10.3	37.7
IUD	8.4	15.6	11.9	3.4	4.8	6.3	9.6	15.0	8.3	8.4	7.8	8.5	8.0	3.4	10.0	27.0
Injectables	6.4	11.0	10.3	2.3	4.9	5.4	7.1	10.6	6.1	7.1	4.0	5.8	7.3	3.3	6.4	23.2
Vasectomy	4.7	11.0	4.9	2.1	2.6	2.3	5.7	8.2	3.1	5.4	6.7	4.6	4.8	2.6	4.0	19.1
Spermicides	4.0	10.2	4.0	1.5	2.3	2.6	4.9	6.3	3.8	4.8	3.8	3.9	4.1	1.9	3.9	15.7
Any Traditional Method	89.4	90.6	91.2	87.9	55.2	88.6	98.0	100.0	99.1	99.4	100.0	99.7	73.6	88.5	88.9	96.8
Withdrawal	89.3	90.5	91.2	87.7	54.6	88.6	98.0	100.0	99.0	99.4	100.0	99.6	73.4	88.3	88.9	96.6
Periodic Abstinence (rhythm method)	22.5	28.7	24.6	18.9	12.2	23.2	30.1	33.7	21.8	22.9	17.0	23.6	20.7	16.7	25.1	41.6
No. of Cases	1,740	718	547	475	401	189	218	253	255	277	147	1,023	703	689	825	226

*Excludes 14 previously married cases.

Table 6.2 A
Percentage of Women Aged 15-44
Who Say They Know How Specific Methods of Contraception
Are Used by Selected Characteristics
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Contraceptive Method	Residence			Age								Marital Status			Education		
	Total	Other		Rural	15-19	20-24	25-19	30-34	35-39	40-44	Married	Previously Married	Never Married	Primary or Less	Secondary	Post-Secondary	
		Tirana	Urban														
Any Method	85.4	87.6	88.4	83.2	57.2	80.6	94.6	95.5	97.3	97.9	99.5	99.3	56.6	83.2	86.9	93.9	
Any Modern Method	59.4	69.6	65.8	53.1	48.7	61.3	62.4	62.8	65.1	60.0	63.4	74.8	50.6	51.0	66.0	84.7	
Condoms	49.4	61.1	57.2	41.7	42.5	55.6	54.4	51.4	47.9	46.1	51.1	60.9	45.2	39.2	57.4	79.6	
Pills	36.0	46.0	44.4	28.6	27.9	38.5	38.7	39.7	38.8	35.2	37.9	53.0	31.2	27.0	41.9	68.5	
Tubal Ligation	40.2	38.5	46.2	37.4	20.6	35.4	43.1	48.1	51.6	49.7	47.5	64.9	24.0	34.9	44.1	56.7	
Injectables	17.4	22.8	21.8	13.4	9.0	15.7	21.9	22.0	20.9	17.7	20.4	27.8	10.7	12.4	20.4	36.4	
IUD	14.0	19.9	19.3	9.5	5.2	14.0	14.7	19.4	18.4	15.8	16.5	16.6	8.9	7.7	18.8	33.7	
Emergency Contraception	8.6	16.9	12.0	4.4	6.4	12.2	8.4	11.2	7.5	6.2	8.4	9.3	8.9	4.0	9.4	35.0	
Vasectomy	4.3	8.3	5.9	2.3	2.1	4.5	5.5	5.3	5.5	3.7	4.8	5.3	3.4	1.2	6.0	17.3	
Spermicides	3.6	7.4	3.8	2.3	1.4	4.5	4.2	4.5	4.7	2.8	3.6	8.6	3.1	1.2	4.4	15.1	
Any Traditional Method	79.5	80.8	83.4	77.0	40.4	72.4	90.4	94.9	96.2	97.6	99.2	99.3	39.2	78.4	79.5	86.7	
Withdrawal	78.9	79.8	83.0	76.4	38.9	71.7	89.6	94.4	96.2	97.6	99.2	99.3	37.4	77.9	78.9	85.7	
Periodic Abstinence (rhythm method)	19.7	25.8	24.8	15.1	9.5	20.0	23.6	24.9	22.1	21.5	23.5	21.2	11.9	13.4	22.4	48.3	
No. of Cases	5,697	2,108	1,816	1,773	1,094	936	946	1,067	958	696	3,965	88	1,644	2,519	2,483	695	

Table 6.2 B
Percentage of Men 15-49 Years Who Say They Know
How Specific Methods of Contraception are Used by Selected Characteristics
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Contraceptive Method	Residence			Age							Marital Status			Education			
	Total	Other		Rural	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	Married	Previously Married		Primary or Less	Secondary	Post-Secondary
		Tirana	Urban														
Any Method	92.0	93.8	94.3	89.9	63.8	94.2	99.8	99.5	99.1	99.3	100.0	99.6	**	80.2	91.2	91.3	99.5
Any Modern Method	69.5	79.9	76.6	61.3	57.6	88.2	85.0	82.9	61.1	61.4	52.1	65.8	**	75.6	59.8	75.8	92.0
Condoms	68.7	79.6	75.8	60.1	57.4	86.2	85.0	82.0	59.8	60.6	50.8	64.8	**	74.8	59.1	74.6	91.6
Pills	20.8	37.7	25.2	11.5	13.1	28.2	34.1	26.1	17.7	16.7	11.2	17.9	**	25.1	10.2	24.3	60.6
Tubal Ligation	11.1	11.1	13.4	9.7	5.1	5.1	14.2	15.3	14.3	14.6	11.4	14.0	**	6.6	9.2	11.2	20.2
Emergency Contraception	7.4	13.7	9.8	3.6	5.4	8.1	9.3	14.2	5.5	6.0	4.1	6.4	**	9.0	3.5	7.6	27.7
IUD	6.8	12.3	10.0	2.7	4.0	5.5	9.0	12.1	5.0	6.1	6.7	6.4	**	7.2	2.9	7.7	22.5
Injectables	5.1	8.0	8.3	2.1	3.4	3.6	6.2	9.1	5.0	5.7	3.8	4.9	**	5.5	2.7	5.1	18.2
Vasectomy	3.6	7.5	4.3	1.7	2.3	2.1	3.9	6.3	2.6	4.4	4.5	3.5	**	3.9	2.1	3.1	14.3
Spermicides	3.5	8.2	3.7	1.5	2.0	2.6	4.0	5.4	3.5	4.2	3.2	3.3	**	3.7	1.7	3.7	11.6
Any Traditional Method	87.3	88.6	88.6	85.9	45.7	87.1	97.7	99.4	99.0	99.3	100.0	99.5	**	68.2	86.5	86.2	96.6
Withdrawal	87.1	88.5	88.6	85.7	45.2	87.1	97.7	99.4	98.8	99.3	100.0	99.5	**	68.0	86.2	86.2	96.4
Periodic Abstinence (rhythm method)	21.4	26.5	24.1	17.7	11.8	23.2	29.1	31.3	20.1	21.0	16.2	22.2	**	20.0	15.6	24.0	39.8
No. of Cases	1,740	718	547	475	401	189	218	253	255	277	147	1,023	14	703	689	825	226

** Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 6.3 A
Percentage of Women 15-44 Years Who Say They Know
Where to Get Specific Contraceptive Methods by Selected Characteristics
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Contraceptive Method	Residence			Age							Marital Status			Education		
	Total	Tirana	Other Urban	Rural	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	Married	Previously Married	Never Married	Primary or Less	Secondary	Post-Secondary
Any Modern Method	83.3	90.9	92.0	76.4	77.4	85.1	86.3	84.5	87.3	81.1	85.6	87.3	78.5	74.6	92.4	98.7
Condoms	74.1	84.4	87.0	64.1	70.2	78.4	79.8	74.7	75.5	66.8	74.1	80.8	73.6	61.5	87.1	97.0
Pills	65.2	73.9	76.2	51.1	51.6	67.2	70.5	64.4	64.0	58.4	64.1	73.1	57.7	48.8	74.6	93.1
Tubal Ligation	58.8	59.5	68.1	53.6	30.2	50.3	66.5	72.3	75.7	68.9	70.8	77.5	34.0	51.8	64.7	78.3
Injectables	30.2	35.1	40.0	23.5	17.3	28.6	37.4	35.2	36.4	31.1	35.1	37.9	20.0	22.5	36.7	51.4
IUD	21.3	29.3	30.1	14.2	8.0	21.0	24.3	27.9	27.6	23.8	25.4	22.8	13.2	12.9	27.6	47.9
Emergency Contraception	10.2	19.6	14.6	5.0	8.0	13.3	10.5	12.9	9.0	7.6	9.8	10.0	10.8	4.6	11.9	38.9
Vasectomy	5.1	10.6	6.9	2.5	2.7	5.2	6.7	5.9	6.1	4.7	5.6	5.8	4.1	1.3	7.4	19.9
Spermicides	4.4	10.0	4.9	2.4	2.2	5.6	5.2	5.4	5.5	2.9	4.2	9.2	4.4	1.2	6.0	17.6
No. of Cases	5,697	2,108	1,816	1,773	1,094	936	946	1,067	958	696	3,965	88	1,644	2,519	2,483	695

Table 6.3 B
Percentage of Men 15-49 Years Who Say They Know
Where to Get Specific Contraceptive Methods by Selected Characteristics
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Contraceptive Method	Residence			Age								Marital Status			Education		
	Total	Tirana	Urban	Rural	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	Married	Previously Married	Never Married	Primary or Less	Secondary	Post-Secondary
					64.2	88.9	86.1	82.4	64.2	59.3	49.4	65.8	**	78.5	60.2	77.9	93.9
Any Modern Method	70.8	82.2	80.0	60.8	64.2	88.9	86.1	82.4	64.2	59.3	49.4	65.8	**	78.5	60.2	77.9	93.9
Condoms	70.1	81.8	79.3	60.1	63.9	88.9	86.1	81.6	62.7	58.4	48.1	64.9	**	78.4	60.1	76.7	93.1
Pills	26.2	42.7	33.4	15.4	20.0	32.2	37.9	33.8	24.1	21.7	14.2	23.0	**	31.0	12.3	33.0	68.1
Tubal Ligation	12.2	12.2	15.6	10.3	5.0	6.2	13.9	17.1	17.6	17.0	11.5	15.6	**	7.1	9.3	12.7	26.1
Emergency Contraception	8.4	14.9	12.2	3.6	5.0	10.6	10.0	16.1	5.9	7.1	5.2	7.4	**	9.9	3.8	8.1	34.4
IUD	7.3	12.5	11.1	3.1	3.6	5.9	8.9	14.4	6.2	6.7	7.3	7.4	**	7.0	3.2	8.4	24.7
Injectables	5.5	8.5	9.0	2.3	4.0	4.1	6.3	10.0	5.0	6.3	3.2	5.0	**	6.4	3.0	5.1	20.7
Vasectomy	3.6	6.9	3.8	2.1	2.2	1.8	3.5	7.3	2.3	4.2	4.4	3.6	**	3.2	2.4	3.0	12.4
Spermicides	3.6	8.7	3.8	1.5	2.2	2.6	3.9	5.9	3.7	4.4	3.2	3.5	**	3.8	1.8	3.8	12.6
No. of Cases	1,740	718	547	475	401	189	218	253	255	277	147	1,023	14	703	689	825	226

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 6.4 A
Percent Distribution of Most Important Source of Information about Contraception by Specific Method Among Women Aged 15–44 Who Have Heard About Specific Methods of Contraception
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Most Important Source of Information About Contraception	Contraceptive Method						
	Condom	Pill	Tubal Ligation	Injectables	IUD	Withdrawal	Periodic Abstinence
Television or Radio	63.6	49.5	10.2	15.7	24.5	1.6	3.2
Friends	15.3	21.8	42.5	46.2	32.4	14.3	59.8
Pharmacist	6.0	5.7	0.0	1.7	1.0	0.0	0.3
Partner or Husband	4.6	0.0	0.7	0.3	1.0	77.7	2.8
Books/Newspaper/Magazine	2.0	4.9	2.2	4.6	6.6	0.6	7.0
Teacher	2.0	1.9	1.0	1.3	2.2	0.3	2.0
Nurse/Midwife/Community Health Worker	1.8	10.2	9.0	9.0	7.7	0.2	3.6
Coworker/Colleagues/Peers	2.5	2.0	2.5	3.6	3.6	1.9	4.1
Physician	1.0	1.1	16.8	10.2	15.5	0.5	2.8
Relative	1.0	2.4	12.6	6.9	4.6	2.2	13.3
Mother or Father	0.2	0.5	2.4	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.9
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Don't Know	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Cases	4,901	4,178	4,023	2,179	1,643	4,985	1,653

Table 6.4 B
Percent Distribution of Most Important Source of Information about Contraception by Specific Method Among Men Aged 15–49 Who Have Heard About Specific Methods of Contraception
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Most Important Source of Information About Contraception	Contraceptive Method						
	Condom	Pill	Tubal Ligation	Injectables	IUD	Withdrawal	Periodic Abstinence
Television or Radio	51.2	44.9	27.7	37.3	26.4	0.2	7.4
Friends	23.7	9.4	5.5	7.4	3.5	41.5	12.7
Pharmacist	1.6	2.0	0.3	1.6	0.3	0.0	0.0
Partner or Wife	0.1	3.5	5.6	4.6	9.0	14.5	25.9
Books/Newspaper/Magazine	6.3	17.9	14.9	15.7	24.3	1.3	8.9
Teacher	3.5	7.6	8.3	14.7	7.9	0.3	3.7
Nurse/Midwife/Community Health Worker	0.4	1.7	4.5	2.0	3.8	0.1	0.9
Coworker/Colleagues/Peers	10.6	7.2	4.3	9.1	14.7	30.2	24.2
Physician	1.6	5.6	28.0	7.6	9.0	0.2	1.4
Relative	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.3	9.9	14.5
Mother or Father	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.1
Other	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2
Don't Know	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Cases	1,601	698	287	149	202	1,528	426

Table 6.5 A
Percentage Distribution of Women 15-44 by Their Opinion About
Contraceptive Effectiveness if the Method is Used Correctly and Consistently
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Contraceptive Method*	Never Heard of Method	Heard of Method	No. of Cases	Very Effective	Effective	Some-what Effective	Not Very Effective	Do Not Know	Total	No. of Cases**
Pill	31.8	68.2	5697	9.5	47.7	9.8	2.9	30.1	100.0	4178
Injectables	64.6	35.4	5697	4.0	46.6	9.3	4.5	35.6	100.0	2179
Tubal Ligation	32.3	67.7	5697	12.7	59.5	4.6	1.9	21.3	100.0	4023
IUD	75.0	25.0	5697	6.0	52.0	8.4	3.2	30.4	100.0	1643
Condom	18.7	81.3	5697	18.3	36.0	17.2	1.6	26.9	100.0	4901
Calendar	74.3	25.7	5697	1.6	27.6	27.6	11.0	31.9	100.0	1653
Withdrawal	15.1	84.9	5697	69.3	17.2	6.9	1.6	4.9	100.0	4985

*Listed in descending order of contraceptive effectiveness when the method is used correctly and consistently (USFDA)

**Opinion about contraceptive effectiveness asked only of women who have heard of method

Table 6.5 B
Percentage Distribution of Men 15-49 by Their Opinion About
Contraceptive Effectiveness if the Method is Used Correctly and Consistently
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Contraceptive Method*	Never Heard of Method	Heard of Method	No. of Cases	Very Effective	Effective	Some-what Effective	Not Very Effective	Do Not Know	Total	No. of Cases***
Pill	67.3	32.7	1740	12.5	52.0	12.2	1.8	21.4	100.0	698
Injectables	93.6	6.4	1740	**	**	**	**	**	**	149
Tubal Ligation	85.2	14.8	1740	79.7	14.2	1.4	1.4	3.3	100.0	287
IUD	91.6	8.4	1740	**	**	**	**	**	**	202
Condom	11.4	88.6	1740	46.8	31.2	4.7	0.6	16.7	100.0	1601
Calendar	77.5	22.5	1740	13.3	56.6	23.0	4.0	3.1	100.0	426
Withdrawal	10.7	89.4	1740	42.4	37.7	16.2	1.9	1.9	100.0	1528

*Listed in descending order of contraceptive effectiveness when the method is used correctly and consistently (USFDA)

**Less than 10 percent of respondents heard of method

***Opinion about contraceptive effectiveness asked only of men who have heard of method

CHAPTER 7

CONTRACEPTIVE USE AND PREFERENCES

Family planning is one of the most important components of reproductive health and maternal and child health programs. Use of modern methods of contraception influences both fertility and abortion rates and is also known to improve infant and child survival through birth spacing by at least two-year intervals.

In this chapter we examine the use of family planning in the Albanian reproductive age population and describe the sociodemographic characteristics that are associated with its use. We group family planning methods into two broad categories, modern methods and traditional methods. Modern methods consist of the oral pill, the condom, the IUD, implants, injectables, vaginal methods, and female and male sterilization (i.e., tubal ligation and vasectomy). Periodic abstinence (rhythm) and withdrawal comprise traditional methods (V Zlidar et al, 2003).

Current Contraceptive Use

Table 7.1 presents data from recent demographic and reproductive health surveys conducted in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union republics. The Eastern European countries, including Albania, show a relatively high prevalence of contraceptive use among married women. However, for unmarried women, Albania departs from the Eastern European pattern and demonstrates exceptionally low contraceptive prevalence for previously married (5%) and never married (4%) women, similar to rates found in the Caucasus region. This reflects the fact that more than 90% of the unmarried female population reported that they were not sexually active at the time of the survey (see Chapter 8).

Since the majority of sexually active women in Albania are married and because, by convention, most international contraceptive prevalence data are reported for married women, most of the data in this chapter will be confined to married women and married men (V Zlidar et al., 2003; R Salem, 2004).

In Tables 7.2A and 7.2B, the reported current practice of contraception is relatively high and very similar for women and men, at 75% for married women and 77% for married men. However, these rates are almost entirely due to the use of the traditional method of withdrawal (67% and 73% for married women and men, respectively). Given the history and geographic location of Albania, it may not be surprising that withdrawal is the most prominent method of contraception used (G Santow, 1993; H Goldberg and A Toros, 1994; Y Tountas et al., 2004). Overall, married men report a lower level of modern contraceptive use than women – only 3% compared to the 8% reported by married women. Previously and never married women exhibit very low levels of use, presumably reflecting low levels of sexual activity, as mentioned above. Among males who are not currently married, contraceptive use is somewhat higher than among unmarried females (14% for never married men), again more likely a reflection of higher sexual activity among men in this category compared to women.

Only 8.0% of married women report using a modern method. There are two recent studies to which we can compare this result. A baseline survey, also in 2002, of basic health service utilization, expenditures and quality, in three districts

(Berat, Kucova and Fier) yielded a modern contraceptive prevalence rate of 5.3% among married women (Abt, 2004). The upper limit of the 95% confidence interval is 6.4%, somewhat smaller than the lower limit of the RHS 95% confidence interval of 6.9%; the lower prevalence found in these three districts may be expected as the RHS includes metro Tirana with the highest geographic prevalence rate of 14.9%. The second survey was a UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted in 2000. In that survey, a modern contraceptive prevalence rate of 15% was reported (95% CI = 13.5%, 16.5%), almost twice as high as the RHS result two years later (UNICEF and INSTAT, 2000). A secondary analysis would be needed to determine if the difference is due to methodological differences in the two surveys or a difference between two time periods.

Tables 7.3A and 7.3B show contraceptive use controlling for selected sociodemographic characteristics among married women and men. For married women (Table 7.3A), the use of any method has a small association with residence, with women in Metro Tirana reporting higher contraceptive prevalence than rural women (81% vs. 72%). There is a more pronounced and expected positive association with age, number of living children, and educational level of the woman. The low use at ages 15–19 (49%) and among women with no children (29%) is likely reflecting higher proportions of married women in those categories who are pregnant or seeking to become pregnant (See Table 7.9A). When looking at use of traditional versus modern methods, again we observe low levels of use of modern contraception. Modern contraceptive use appears to have similar associations with age and number of living children as use of traditional methods. Additionally, strata demonstrates a strong

effect, with women in Metro Tirana three times as likely and women in urban areas twice as likely to use modern methods as women in rural areas (15%, 9% and 5%, respectively). There is no such effect of residence on traditional contraceptive use. Also, education and socioeconomic levels have a positive relationship with modern contraceptive use but little relation to use of traditional methods. Overall rates of modern use remain low in all categories of the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics shown. The highest percentages of married women using a modern method are 18% and 17% for women with a high socioeconomic level and with postsecondary education, respectively.

Among married men (Table 7.3B), there is no strong association between use of any method and stratum of residence. Men in Tirana report somewhat lower overall use than rural men or men in other urban areas. Furthermore, associations between use of any method and age, number of living children, and the man's educational level are much weaker than observed among the women or do not exist. Use of modern methods, however, is associated with residence, with 6% of urban men (7% in Tirana) versus less than 1% of rural men reporting modern contraceptive use, with educational level (increasing from 1% to 13% with increasing education), and with socioeconomic status (from 1% to 4% to 12% across the three SES categories). Only men living in Tirana (10%), men with one child (12%), men with a post-secondary education (17%), and men classified as high SES (14%) report at least 10% of their method use to be modern methods.

Table 7.4A shows the distribution of methods used by married women in greater detail. It is quickly evident that the principal modern method used by the few

Albanian women using modern methods is tubal ligation. Five percent of married Albanian women using contraception have been sterilized, and this percentage increases to 10% among women 40-44 and 8% among women with three or more children. The second most used modern method is the condom, whose highest prevalence is 10% among contraceptive women with postsecondary education and 11% among women of high socioeconomic status.

Modern method use among married men is negligible at 3%. In Table 7.4B, we see that for these men the condom is by far the principal modern method used. Condom use is positively associated with urban residence, educational level and socioeconomic status. Among contraceptors, the highest percentage of condom use is 9% for married men residing in Tirana, 12% for those with postsecondary education, and 8% for men in the highest socioeconomic stratum.

While use of modern contraception increases with education, socioeconomic status and urbanization for both women and men, modern use is higher for women at each educational level and residence.

Source of Contraception

Because of the small numbers of married men using modern methods of contraception, information on source of modern methods can only be shown for the married women (Table 7.5). The data show that almost all tubal ligations (99%) are obtained from government hospitals and clinic facilities and the vast majority of condoms (78%) are obtained from pharmacies. Fifty-eight percent of women who use the pill reported the pharmacy as their source, and a third reported family planning clinics (20%) and health posts (12%). The few women

who use IUDs primarily obtain them from government hospitals (71%), with another 13% reporting family planning clinics as their source.

Among all women currently using modern contraceptives, approximately two-thirds (65%) reported they had received advice from a physician (Table 7.6). Physician advice is primarily present for women who are using tubal ligation or the IUD. Condom users are more likely to have obtained advice from their partner, and pill users obtained advice from physicians, nurses, midwives or pharmacists. Among women who did receive counseling from a physician or other health worker, only two out of five (41%) reported having received information about other contraceptive methods and about half (53%) reported having received information about possible side effects.

Satisfaction with and Preference for Current Method

The vast majority of users of contraception report they are satisfied with the method they use (data not shown). Almost 100% of married women and men using withdrawal or condoms indicate they are satisfied with their method. Women who have been surgically sterilized report the least satisfaction at 78%. Only 5% of women and 3% of men currently using withdrawal said they would prefer another method.

Women and men who were using traditional methods (predominantly withdrawal) were read a list of reasons why a person might prefer these traditional or “natural” methods over modern ones, and were asked to rank their importance on a three-point scale from not important to somewhat important to very important. Tables 7.7A and B show the percentage who indicated the given reasons to be somewhat or very

important. In Table 7.7A, among the reasons provided, fear of side effects was by far the most important to the female respondents (84% reported somewhat or very important). Second among the given reasons was that the method used was the partner's preference (73%). And the third ranking reason was lack of knowledge of modern methods (64%). Almost half of the women said that access and cost (45% each) were somewhat or very important factors. Religious beliefs and doctor's or other person's advice were significantly less important. The most important reasons (fear of side effects and partner's preference) varied little by sociodemographic characteristics. However, access, cost and lack of knowledge were substantially more important in rural compared to urban areas and among the least educated and the lowest socioeconomic level. There is no significant variation for each reason among the three main religious groups.

Among the male respondents (Table 7.7B), the most frequently ranked factor for deciding not to use a modern method was "partner's preference" at 87%. This is consistent with results of a recent study in Turkey (A Kulczycki, 2004). Second in frequency were lack of knowledge of modern methods (76%) and fear of side effects (73%). More than half of the males also ranked cost (69%), difficult access (64%), doctor's recommendation (61%), and religious beliefs (57%) as somewhat or very important. There is little association between sociodemographic characteristics and reasons for not using modern methods among the men. Cost, access and knowledge varied somewhat or not at all with residence and educational level in comparison to the women. On the other hand, high socioeconomic status was strongly associated with the five factors most frequently ranked as important, and rural residence was strongly associated

with the ranking of religious beliefs as an important factor.

When asked about the effectiveness of their current method, almost three-quarters (73%) of women using traditional methods said the method they were using was more effective than a modern contraceptive method (Table 7.8A). Another 10% believed their method was equally effective as modern methods. Even traditional method users with postsecondary education or a high socioeconomic level believed in the effectiveness of their method. Only 10% of women in these sociodemographic categories thought their current traditional method to be less effective than a modern method.

Men also were not convinced that modern methods were more effective than traditional methods (Table 7.8B), although their responses did differ slightly from the women. Almost half (48%) of the men believed their current traditional method was more effective than modern methods, but another 42% said it was equally effective. While education had no significant effect on men's perception of the effectiveness of methods, as with the women, men in the highest socioeconomic category were most likely to think that modern methods were more effective (still at only 11%).

There is very low knowledge of the true failure rate for withdrawal compared with modern methods such as the IUD and oral contraceptives as shown by recent surveys conducted in nine countries of Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union (CDC and MACRO, 2004). Results from these surveys show that the 12 month failure rate for withdrawal use ranges from 12% to 30 %, and from 17% to 30% in the four countries where withdrawal is the method most used, compared with the

12 month failure rates for IUD and oral contraceptives varying between 1% and 16%.

Reasons for Not Using Contraception

Tables 7.9 (A & B) and 7.10 (A & B) provide information on married women and men who are not currently using contraception. In Table 7.9A & B, we can readily observe that the vast majority of married nonusers are not using because they are not sexually active (husbands or wives may be absent)--55% for both women and men. Another 36% of women and 22% of men report they (or their wives) are either trying to get pregnant, are currently pregnant or are postpartum. Among women, these are mostly 15-24 year olds (66%). Women in the oldest age group (35-44) also report hysterectomy or other sources of infecundity (16%), and men in the oldest age group often (16%) report dissatisfaction with contraception due to its interruption of lovemaking – likely with reference to the method of withdrawal.

Intention to Use Contraception among Nonusers

Only fecund married women and men are presented in Tables 7.10A & B and Table 11. Table 7.10A demonstrates that those

women who may not be currently using due to an absent spouse or pregnancy-related reasons are definitely thinking about using contraception in the future. It appears that the majority (80%) of nonusing married women want to practice family planning. There is little association with parity, except for the nulliparous women who report the least interest in practicing family planning; they are more likely to be 15-24 years of age and, as shown in Table 7.9A, were the group most likely to be trying to get pregnant. Thirty-one percent of nonusers with no children report they do not want to practice family planning. Men (Table 7.10B), on the other hand, are less likely than women to want to practice family planning in the future. Twenty percent of men do not want to use contraception and 37% are undecided. The percentage that does not want to use decreases with parity, while the undecided responses increase with parity. In Table 7.11, more than half (57%) of the married women currently not using contraception and who want more children also want to use a contraceptive method within the next 12 months and only 14% do not want to use a method. The women who do not want more children are more likely (69%) to want to use a method within the coming 12 months and less likely to not want to use a method.

Table 7.1
Percent of Women Currently Using Any Contraceptive Method
by Marital Status Among Women Aged 15–44
Reproductive and Demographic Health Surveys (RHS and DHS)
In Selected Eastern European and Former Soviet Union Countries
Albania Reproductive Health Survey 2002, Final Report

Region and Country	Total	Marital Status			Number of Cases
		Currently Married	Previously Married	Never Married	
Eastern Europe					
Albania, 2002	51	75	5	4	5,697
Czech Rep., 1993	59	69	46	38	4,497
Moldova, 1997	54	74	27	7	5,412
Romania, 1999	48	64	20	20	6,888
Russia, 1999*	59	73	42	29	6,004
Ukraine, 1999	54	68	35	22	7,128
Caucasus					
Armenia, 2000	38	61	2	0	5,624
Azerbaijan, 2001	32	55	2	0	7,668
Georgia, 1999	25	41	3	0	7,798
Central Asia					
Kazakhstan, 1999	45	62	40	8	4,267
Kyrgyz Rep., 1997	42	60	15	1	3,529
Turkmenistan, 2000	34	55	18	0	7,263
Uzbekistan, 1996	40	57	11	0	4,091

* Yekaterinburg, Perm, and Ivanovo, respectively (predominantly urban sample).

Source: Goldberg H et al., 1993, KIIS and CDC, 2001; MACRO International 1995-2001; Serbanescu et al., 1998, 2001, 2001, 2003; VCIOM and CDC, 1998, 2000.

Table 7.2 A
Current Use of Contraception Among Women
15-44 Years of Age, by Marital Status
(Percent Distribution)
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Use of Contraception	Total	Marital Status		
		Married	Previously Married	Never Married
Currently Using	50.5	75.1	5.1	4.4
Modern Methods	5.6	8.0	2.7	1.0
Tubal Ligation	2.7	4.0	2.4	0.1
Condom	1.6	2.1	0.3	0.7
Pill	0.7	1.0	0.0	0.2
IUD	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0
Injectables	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.0
Traditional Methods	44.8	67.1	2.4	3.4
Periodic Abstinence (rhythm)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Withdrawal	44.8	67.1	2.4	3.4
Not Current Using	49.5	24.9	94.9	95.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Cases	5,697	3,965	88	1,644

Table 7.2 B
Current Use of Contraception Among Men
15-49 Years of Age, by Marital Status
(Percent Distribution)
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Use of Contraception	Total	Marital Status		
		Married	Previously Married	Never Married
Currently Using	52.3	77.1	**	14.2
Modern Methods	4.2	3.3	**	5.4
Condom	3.6	2.4	**	5.4
Pill	0.2	0.3	**	0.0
IUD	0.2	0.3	**	0.0
Tubal Ligation	0.1	0.1	**	0.0
Injectables	0.1	0.2	**	0.0
Traditional Methods	48.2	73.9	**	8.8
Periodic Abstinence (Rhythm)	0.6	0.8	**	0.3
Withdrawal	47.6	73.1	**	8.5
Not Currently Using	47.7	22.9	**	85.8
Total	100.0	100.0	**	100.0
No. of Cases	1,740	1,023	14	703

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 7.3 A
Percentage Currently Using Modern and Traditional Methods by Selected Characteristics
Currently Married Women Aged 15-44 Years
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristics	All Married Women				Contraceptors	
	Any Method	Modern Method	Traditional Method	No. of Cases	Percentage Using a Modern	No. of Cases
Total	75.1	8.0	67.1	3,965	10.7	3,065
Strata						
Metro Tirana	81.3	14.9	66.4	1,438	18.3	1,177
Other Urban	77.2	9.4	67.7	1,308	12.2	1,015
Other Rural	72.2	5.1	67.0	1,219	7.1	873
Residence						
Urban	78.6	11.3	67.4	2,488	14.4	1,993
Rural	72.4	5.5	67.0	1,477	7.6	1,072
Age Group						
15-19	48.9	2.5	46.4	97	5.1	52
20-24	62.4	3.7	58.7	502	5.9	324
25-29	67.4	5.3	62.1	800	7.9	567
30-34	78.7	9.4	69.3	1,004	11.9	812
35-39	81.9	9.3	72.6	906	11.4	756
40-44	82.7	10.9	71.8	656	13.2	554
Living Children						
0	29.3	2.2	27.1	291	7.5	91
1	60.9	3.1	57.8	800	5.1	514
2	82.7	9.1	73.6	1,806	11.0	1,544
3	85.5	10.6	74.9	783	12.4	681
4 +	81.5	10.8	70.7	285	13.3	235
Education Level						
Primary or Less	71.0	5.8	65.2	1,821	8.2	1,310
Secondary Incomplete	72.3	9.5	62.7	237	13.1	179
Secondary Complete	81.3	9.4	72.0	1,487	11.6	1,230
Post-Secondary	81.2	17.2	64.0	420	21.2	346
Socioeconomic Index						
Low	76.0	6.2	69.8	1,429	8.2	1,093
Medium	73.1	7.9	65.2	2,011	10.8	1,528
High	82.1	17.8	64.3	525	21.7	444

Table 7.3 B
Percentage Currently Using Modern and Traditional Methods by Selected Characteristics
Currently Married Men Aged 15-49 Years
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristics	All Married Men			No. of Cases	Contraceptors	
	Any Method	Modern	Traditional		Percentage Using a Modern Method	No. of Cases
Total	77.1	3.3	73.9	1,023	4.3	797
Strata						
Metro Tirana	72.2	7.3	64.9	421	10.1	314
Other Urban	80.3	5.2	75.2	318	6.5	257
Other Rural	77.2	0.6	76.6	284	0.8	226
Residence						
Urban	78.1	6.3	71.8	670	8.1	526
Rural	76.3	0.7	75.6	353	0.9	271
Age Group						
20-24	67.7	0.0	67.7	32	**	21
25-29	73.9	2.1	71.8	123	2.8	91
30-34	82.2	5.6	76.6	215	6.8	176
35-39	84.1	2.6	81.6	242	3.1	204
40-44	76.7	3.0	73.7	270	3.9	205
45-49	67.8	3.3	64.5	141	4.9	100
Living Children						
0	45.9	2.7	43.2	105	5.9	51
1	79.0	9.3	69.7	218	11.8	169
2	83.0	2.3	80.8	464	2.8	393
3	84.0	1.4	82.6	167	1.7	136
4 +	68.7	0.5	68.3	69	0.7	48
Education Level						
Primary or Less	75.0	0.7	74.3	408	0.9	314
Secondary Incomplete	**	**	**	20	**	13
Secondary Complete	80.6	4.4	76.2	458	5.5	363
Post-Secondary	77.1	12.8	64.2	137	16.6	107
Socioeconomic Index						
Low	77.7	1.2	76.5	403	1.5	319
Medium	75.6	3.8	71.8	458	5.0	349
High	80.6	11.5	69.1	162	14.3	129

** Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases

Table 7.4 A
Current Use of Specific Contraceptive Methods by Selected Characteristics
Currently Married Women Aged 15-44 Years
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristics	Any Method	No. of Cases	Specific Contraceptive Method Use (Percent Distribution)								No. of Cases
			Tubal Ligation	Condom	Pill	IUD	Injectables	Periodic Abstinence Rhythm	Total		
Total	75.1	3,965	5.3	2.8	1.3	0.6	0.5	89.3	0.0	100.0	3,065
Strata											
Metro Tirana	81.3	1,438	6.6	6.8	3.4	1.2	0.3	81.6	0.1	100.0	1,177
Other Urban	77.2	1,308	5.4	3.5	1.5	0.8	1.1	87.7	0.1	100.0	1,015
Other Rural	72.2	1,219	4.9	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	92.9	0.0	100.0	873
Residence											
Urban	78.6	2,488	5.8	4.7	2.0	0.9	0.8	85.6	0.1	100.0	1,993
Rural	72.4	1,477	5.0	1.3	0.7	0.3	0.3	92.5	0.0	100.0	1,072
Age Group											
15-19	48.9	97	0.0	2.6	0.8	0.0	1.8	94.9	0.0	100.0	52
20-24	62.4	502	0.7	4.0	0.2	0.9	0.1	94.0	0.0	100.0	324
25-29	67.4	800	1.9	2.9	2.1	0.6	0.3	92.1	0.0	100.0	567
30-34	78.7	1,004	5.5	3.6	1.8	0.5	0.5	88.1	0.0	100.0	812
35-39	81.9	906	6.0	2.4	1.4	0.9	0.6	88.5	0.2	100.0	756
40-44	82.7	656	9.5	2.0	0.6	0.3	0.7	86.8	0.0	100.0	554
Living Children											
0	29.3	291	0.0	7.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	92.6	0.0	100.0	91
1	60.9	800	1.2	2.7	1.1	0.0	0.1	94.9	0.0	100.0	514
2	82.7	1,806	4.6	3.5	2.0	0.7	0.2	88.9	0.1	100.0	1,544
3	85.5	783	8.3	1.6	0.7	0.8	1.0	87.6	0.0	100.0	681
4 +	81.5	285	8.2	2.2	0.6	0.7	1.5	86.7	0.0	100.0	235
Education Level											
Primary or Less	71.0	1,821	5.1	1.5	0.5	0.4	0.7	91.8	0.0	100.0	1,310
Secondary Incomplete	72.3	237	9.3	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.9	86.8	0.0	100.0	179
Secondary Complete	81.3	1,487	5.3	3.6	1.7	0.7	0.2	88.5	0.0	100.0	1,230
Post-Secondary	81.2	420	4.4	10.1	5.1	1.3	0.3	78.4	0.4	100.0	346
Socioeconomic Index											
Low	76.0	1,429	5.7	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.6	91.9	0.0	100.0	1,093
Medium	73.1	2,011	5.0	3.0	1.6	0.7	0.5	89.1	0.1	100.0	1,528
High	82.1	525	5.2	10.8	3.0	2.0	0.6	78.2	0.1	100.0	444

Table 7.4 B
Current Use of Specific Contraceptive Methods by Selected Characteristics
Currently Married Men Aged 15-49 Years
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristics	Any Method	No. of Cases	Specific Contraceptive Method Use (Percent Distribution)							Total	No. of Cases
			Condom	Pill	IUD	Injectables	Tubal Ligation	Withdrawal	Periodic Abstinence (Rhythm)		
Total	77.1	1,023	3.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	94.8	1.0	100.0	797
Strata											
Metro Tirana	72.2	421	8.7	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.6	88.5	1.4	100.0	314
Other Urban	80.3	318	3.6	0.7	1.3	0.8	0.0	91.8	1.8	100.0	257
Other Rural	77.2	284	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	98.8	0.4	100.0	226
Residence											
Urban	78.1	670	5.6	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.2	90.2	1.7	100.0	526
Rural	76.3	353	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	98.7	0.4	100.0	271
Age Group											
20-24	67.7	32	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	21
25-29	73.9	123	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	96.3	0.9	100.0	91
30-34	82.2	215	5.0	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.2	91.6	1.5	100.0	176
35-39	84.1	242	1.9	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.0	95.9	1.1	100.0	204
40-44	76.7	270	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	95.6	0.5	100.0	205
45-49	67.8	141	1.9	0.0	1.7	0.9	0.4	95.1	0.0	100.0	100
Living Children											
0	45.9	105	5.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	90.7	3.4	100.0	51
1	79.0	218	9.2	1.4	0.6	0.6	0.0	87.2	1.1	100.0	169
2	83.0	464	1.6	0.1	0.8	0.0	0.3	96.2	1.1	100.0	393
3	84.0	167	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	97.8	0.5	100.0	136
4 +	68.7	69	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	99.3	0.0	100.0	48
Education Level											
Primary or Less	75.0	408	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	98.1	0.9	100.0	314
Secondary Incomplete	**	20	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	13
Secondary Complete	80.6	458	4.0	0.1	0.8	0.6	0.0	93.4	1.1	100.0	363
Post-Secondary	77.1	137	11.5	3.2	1.3	0.0	0.7	82.8	0.6	100.0	107
Socioeconomic Index											
Low	77.7	403	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	98.3	0.2	100.0	319
Medium	75.6	458	4.0	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.0	92.9	2.0	100.0	349
High	80.6	162	7.9	1.6	4.2	0.0	0.6	84.8	1.0	100.0	129

** Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases

Table 7.5
Source of Supply for Last Modern Contraceptive Used Among Currently Married Women
Aged 15-44 Years Currently Using a Modern Method by Specific Methods
(Percent Distribution)
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Source	Total	Tubal Ligation	Method Currently Using			
			Condom	Pill	IUD	Injectables
Public Medical Sector	65.9	99.4	8.2	35.8	91.0	**
Gov. Hospital-Maternity Ward	56.1	97.2	0.0	4.0	70.8	**
Family Planning Clinic	5.7	0.0	4.0	19.8	13.4	**
Health Post or Clinic	4.1	2.2	4.2	12.0	6.8	**
Pharmacy	29.0	0.0	78.2	58.1	4.6	**
Private Clinic or Office	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.0	4.4	**
Partner/Husband	3.2	0.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	**
Do Not Know	1.4	0.5	1.7	5.2	0.0	**
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	**
No. of Cases	410	169	130	67	28	16

** Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 7.6
Percent Distribution of Type of Counseling by a Health Care Provider
for Current Contraceptive Method
Among Married Women Aged 15-44 Currently Using a Modern Method
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Who Advised User	Total	Method Currently Using			
		Tubal Ligation	Condom	Pill	IUD
Physician	65.3	93.6	14.4	54.1	88.8
Partner	16.5	0.2	58.7	2.3	0.0
Nurse/Midwife	4.0	1.2	2.3	15.7	6.7
Friend	2.5	1.0	1.8	7.9	0.0
Pharmacist	2.0	0.0	2.7	10.5	0.0
Mother or Other Relative	1.9	0.0	1.9	2.1	4.5
No One	7.8	4.0	18.1	7.4	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Cases	405	168	129	64	28
Type of Counseling by Physician, Nurse or Midwife					
General Information About Other Methods	40.7	25.6	**	67.9	77.4
Information About Possible Side Effects	52.5	44.9	**	68.0	73.3
No. of Cases	253	153	17	46	27

** Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases

Table 7.7 A
Percentage of Contraceptive Users Who Stated that Selected Reasons Read to Them Were Very Important or Somewhat Important When Deciding To Use a Non-Supplied Method Instead of a Modern Method, by Selected Characteristics
Women Aged 15-44 Currently Using Traditional Methods
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristics	Fear of or Experience With Side Effects	Partner Preference	Little Knowledge of Modern Methods	Difficult to Get a Modern Method	Cost of Modern Methods	Doctor Recommendation	Another Person's Advice	Religious Beliefs	No. of Cases
Total	84.1	73.2	64.2	45.4	44.7	33.0	23.4	21.5	2,739
Method Currently Using									
Rhythm Method	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	2
Withdrawal	84.2	73.2	64.1	45.5	44.7	33.0	23.4	21.5	2,737
Strata									
Metro Tirana	81.1	75.7	59.4	37.8	39.0	32.1	20.3	18.0	1,012
Other Urban	86.7	68.3	57.0	38.0	39.4	28.0	21.2	17.0	910
Other Rural	83.5	75.3	69.8	52.1	49.5	36.2	25.6	25.2	817
Residence									
Urban	85.0	70.6	57.6	37.7	38.8	28.4	20.0	16.5	1,750
Rural	83.4	75.2	69.4	51.7	49.4	36.7	26.0	25.5	989
Age Group									
15-24	85.1	74.0	63.3	45.4	43.9	31.0	23.8	19.8	407
25-34	83.7	73.8	64.2	45.7	44.6	31.1	22.2	19.6	1,216
35-44	84.2	72.4	64.4	45.2	45.1	35.3	24.3	23.7	1,116
Education Level									
Primary or Less	81.9	75.3	69.7	50.9	49.3	34.6	24.4	23.8	1,189
Secondary Incomplete	92.3	77.3	66.9	39.8	34.5	21.0	16.1	19.1	165
Secondary Complete	86.0	70.0	59.1	40.8	41.4	34.3	24.6	20.9	1,093
Post-Secondary	85.9	69.7	46.0	31.7	35.0	24.5	15.7	9.8	292
Socioeconomic Index									
Low	80.7	73.7	68.2	50.8	49.6	34.1	24.3	23.7	989
Medium	86.4	71.5	62.4	41.9	41.7	31.7	22.9	19.4	1,386
High	89.4	79.6	52.4	37.0	35.5	33.9	21.3	21.3	364
Religion									
Muslim	83.2	72.9	64.3	46.4	44.9	31.5	23.3	20.6	2,225
Orthodox	87.1	75.3	59.0	41.0	43.1	34.2	25.5	21.4	246
Catholic	89.4	73.9	69.3	44.8	46.4	42.6	22.4	27.6	240
Other/Undeclared	71.1	68.7	30.3	10.7	21.4	28.4	19.8	19.0	28

** Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases

Table 7.7 B
Percentage of Contraceptive Users Who Stated That Selected Reasons Read to Them Were Very Important or Somewhat Important When Deciding To Use a Non-Supplied Method Instead of a Modern Method, by Selected Characteristics
Men Aged 15-49 Currently Using Traditional Methods
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristics	Partner Preference	Little Knowledge of Modern Methods	Fear of or Experience With Side Effects	Cost of Modern Methods	Difficult to Get a Modern Method	Doctor Recommendations	Another Person's Advice	Religious Beliefs	Total	No. of Cases
Total	86.9	75.9	72.6	68.5	64.2	60.8	38.7	56.8	100.0	804
Method Currently Using										
Rhythm Method	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	13
Withdrawal	86.8	75.9	72.5	68.5	64.2	60.6	38.9	56.7	100.0	791
Strata										
Metro Tirana	84.4	73.9	72.7	65.1	66.1	53.1	27.5	40.7	100.0	300
Other Urban	84.7	72.5	72.5	65.7	58.0	59.1	38.1	54.8	100.0	271
Other Rural	89.1	78.6	72.5	71.3	67.3	64.4	42.7	63.3	100.0	233
Residence										
Urban	84.3	72.5	72.6	65.1	60.7	57.6	34.7	49.5	100.0	526
Rural	89.1	78.7	72.5	71.3	67.1	63.5	42.0	63.0	100.0	278
Age Group										
15-24	90.3	82.0	79.5	84.5	71.2	59.3	42.5	62.2	100.0	43
25-34	91.2	79.0	77.0	71.2	73.1	67.8	41.6	61.7	100.0	277
35-49	84.1	73.5	69.3	65.3	58.4	57.0	36.6	53.5	100.0	484
Education Level										
Primary or Less	84.7	77.4	70.8	67.6	62.2	59.6	39.6	60.2	100.0	324
Secondary Incomplete	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	14
Secondary Complete	90.2	76.6	74.3	69.6	67.7	62.4	35.3	53.6	100.0	364
Post-Secondary	87.1	65.5	75.5	66.7	60.7	60.3	45.5	51.3	100.0	102
Socioeconomic Index										
Low	82.6	75.9	65.7	65.7	57.5	55.3	36.8	52.7	100.0	321
Medium	89.7	74.1	76.7	68.4	68.2	64.6	37.7	60.3	100.0	353
High	97.0	82.0	90.3	81.7	81.3	73.0	50.8	63.1	100.0	130
Religion										
Muslim	87.3	75.1	71.3	66.9	62.9	59.2	38.3	54.7	100.0	675
Orthodox	82.6	74.7	73.3	75.3	67.4	63.5	39.3	63.2	100.0	80
Catholic	82.3	83.1	85.0	74.3	69.8	71.8	31.6	67.9	100.0	32
Other/Undeclared	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	17

** Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 7.8 A
Perceived Effectiveness of Traditional Methods Compared to Modern Methods
by Selected Characteristics
Women Aged 15-44 Currently Using Traditional Methods
(Percent Distribution)
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristics	Traditional Method vs Modern				Total	No. of Cases
	Current Method More Effective	About Equally Effective	Current Method/Less Effective	Do Not Know		
Total	73.3	10.2	5.5	11.1	100.0	2,739
Strata						
Metro Tirana	72.8	13.2	7.8	6.2	100.0	1,012
Other Urban	72.4	11.7	5.7	10.2	100.0	910
Other Rural	73.9	8.3	4.6	13.1	100.0	817
Residence						
Urban	71.9	12.6	6.4	9.1	100.0	1,750
Rural	74.4	8.2	4.7	12.7	100.0	989
Age Group						
15-24	73.4	11.0	4.7	10.9	100.0	407
25-34	71.6	9.9	6.5	12.0	100.0	1,216
35-44	74.6	10.1	4.8	10.4	100.0	1,116
Education Level						
Primary or Less	74.4	7.4	4.8	13.4	100.0	1,189
Secondary Incomplete	74.3	15.3	3.3	7.1	100.0	165
Secondary Complete	72.3	12.0	5.8	9.9	100.0	1,093
Post-Secondary	68.7	17.5	10.5	3.3	100.0	292
Socioeconomic Index						
Low	73.2	7.6	4.7	14.5	100.0	989
Medium	74.8	11.2	5.3	8.6	100.0	1,386
High	65.2	17.5	10.2	7.1	100.0	364

Table 7.8 B
Perceived Effectiveness of Traditional Methods Compared to Modern Methods
by Selected Characteristics
Men Aged 15-49 Currently Using Traditional Methods
(Percent Distribution)
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristics	Traditional Method vs. Modern				Total	No. of Cases
	Current Method More Effective	About Equally Effective	Current Method/ Less Effective	Do Not Know		
Total	47.7	41.5	4.6	6.1	100.0	804
Strata						
Metro Tirana	48.7	32.8	7.1	11.4	100.0	300
Other Urban	45.2	43.1	5.3	6.4	100.0	271
Other Rural	49.0	43.4	3.4	4.2	100.0	233
Residence						
Urban	46.5	39.5	6.0	7.9	100.0	526
Rural	48.8	43.2	3.5	4.6	100.0	278
Age Group						
15-24	21.7	68.3	7.4	2.5	100.0	43
25-34	41.3	47.1	6.4	5.2	100.0	277
35-49	54.0	35.7	3.4	7.0	100.0	484
Education Level						
Primary or Less	50.3	38.8	3.6	7.3	100.0	324
Secondary Incomplete	**	**	**	**	**	14
Secondary Complete	48.4	41.3	5.9	4.4	100.0	364
Post-Secondary	35.6	56.8	5.6	2.0	100.0	102
Socioeconomic Index						
Low	52.5	35.8	3.0	8.6	100.0	321
Medium	44.5	46.6	5.1	3.8	100.0	353
High	36.9	49.7	10.6	2.8	100.0	130

Table 7.9 A
Most Commonly Cited Reasons for Not Currently Using Contraception
Among Currently Married Women Aged 15-44 Years
(Percent Distribution)
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Reason For Not Using Contraception	Total	Age Group		
		15-24	25-34	35-44
Not Sexually Active/No Partner	57.6	43.6	61.9	63.5
Currently Pregnant	17.7	31.8	20.0	3.4
Trying to Get Pregnant	12.4	17.6	10.9	10.0
Postpartum/Breastfeeding	3.6	6.0	4.3	0.7
Infecundity/Subfecundity	6.4	0.3	1.3	17.7
Religious Reasons	0.8	0.0	0.3	1.9
Respondent Does Not Want to Use Contraception	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.9
Respondent Did Not Think About Using Contraception	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.9
Other Reasons	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Cases	1,063	282	482	299

Table 7.9 B
Most Commonly Cited Reasons for Not Currently Using Contraception by Age Group
Among Currently Married Men Aged 15-49 Years
(Percent Distribution)
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Reason Not Using Contraception	Total	Age		
		15-24	25-34	35-49
Not Sexually Active/No Partner	55.3	90.1	46.8	41.3
Trying to Get Partner Pregnant	14.2	4.8	29.2	7.8
Lovemaking Interrupted	7.1	0.0	1.2	16.2
Partner Currently Pregnant	4.2	1.7	8.2	2.4
Partner Postpartum/Breastfeeding	4.0	0.8	6.5	3.8
Infecundity/Subfecundity	8.8	0.0	4.1	17.9
Other Reasons	6.3	2.5	4.0	10.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Cases	392	94	138	160

Table 7.10 A
Desire to Use Contraception in the Future by Number of Living Children
Fecund Currently Married Women Aged 15-44 Years Who Are Not Using Contraception
(Percent Distribution)
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Desire to Use Contraception	Total	Number of Living Children *			
		0	1	2	3 +
Want to Use a Method Within 12 Months	62.2	29.3	60.3	70.8	70.2
Want to Use a Method Later	18.2	27.0	21.4	14.7	14.1
Do Not Want to Use Contraception	10.7	30.7	10.0	6.6	6.7
Undecided	9.0	13.1	8.3	8.0	9.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Cases	838	110	262	298	168

* Women who were pregnant at the time of the interview are classified as having one more child than the actual number

Table 7.10 B
Desire to Use Contraception in the Future by Number of Living Children
Fecund Currently Married Men Aged 15-49 Years Who Are Not Using Contraception
(Percent Distribution)
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Desire to Use Contraception	Total	Number of Living Children *			
		0	1	2	3 +
Want to Use a Method Within 12 Months	25.0	7.7	37.5	31.2	23.0
Want to Use a Method Later	18.2	37.6	27.9	11.1	5.8
Do Not Want to Use Contraception	19.8	45.8	22.1	11.0	8.9
Undecided	37.0	8.9	12.6	46.8	62.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Cases	202	40	41	70	51

* Men whose partner was pregnant at the time of the interview are classified as having one more child than the actual number

Table 7.11
Desire to Use Contraception in the Future by Fertility Preferences
Fecund Currently Married Women Aged 15-44 Years Who Are Not Using Contraception
(Percent Distribution)
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Desire to Use Contraception	Total	Desire for Additional Children		
		Want More Children	No More Children	Undecided
Want to Use a Method Within 12 Months	62.2	56.5	69.0	66.1
Want to Use a Method Later	18.2	20.9	15.1	15.3
Do Not Want to Use Contraception	10.7	14.2	5.9	11.9
Undecided	9.0	8.5	10.0	6.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Cases	838	444	329	65

CHAPTER 8

NEED FOR CONTRACEPTIVE SERVICES AND CONTRACEPTIVE COUNSELING

The unmet need for contraception is a very specific estimate that measures the gap between desired fertility and the contraceptive practices adopted to ensure that fertility preferences are met in any given population. The conventional definition of unmet need includes women currently married or in consensual unions who are fecund, currently sexually active, currently exposed to the risk of pregnancy, not wanting to become pregnant, and not using any form of pregnancy prevention (Bongaarts, 1991). In this report, the standard formulation of unmet need is extended to all women, not just those in union.

In addition to the unmet need for any family planning method, the Albania RHS 2002 estimated the need for modern contraception – an indicator used in other Eastern European surveys that expanded the definition to include users of non-supplied methods in the category of unmet need. In countries with high use of non-supplied methods, such as withdrawal, the standard definition of unmet need masks the real need for more effective contraception because these methods tend to have higher failure rates (CDC and MACRO, 2003). For these countries it is more useful to also estimate the need for modern contraception in addition to any contraceptive method, despite the small risk of overstating the unmet need in some cases where traditional methods are used more effectively.

Potential Demand and Unmet Need for Family Planning Services

The survey asked all women about their sexual, contraceptive and reproductive

behaviors, as well as their fecundity status and fertility preferences, allowing for an examination of contraceptive need among both married and unmarried respondents

Table 8.1 presents data on women in need of family planning, or at risk of an unintended pregnancy, in Albania by age group and marital status. Women who are currently pregnant or postpartum, currently seeking to become pregnant, sub-fecund, or who are not sexually active, are considered to not be in need of family planning services at the time of the survey. About one-half (49%) of women fall into this category, ranging from 80% of young adults to 36% of 25–44 year old women to only 23% of 35–44 year old women. This category excludes almost all previously married (95%) and never married women (96%) because of lack of sexual activity or lack of sexual experience, respectively. Only one-fourth (24%) of married women are classified as “not currently in need of family planning services”. Thus, three-fourths (75%) of married women are considered to have potential need for family planning services, of whom 8% are current users of modern methods and 67% report using traditional methods, principally withdrawal. As mentioned above, the questionnaire design of the survey instrument allows an estimation of women in need of modern contraception. As shown in Table 8.1, 68% percent of married women are in need of modern contraception. This includes well over half of all women from 25–44 years of age.

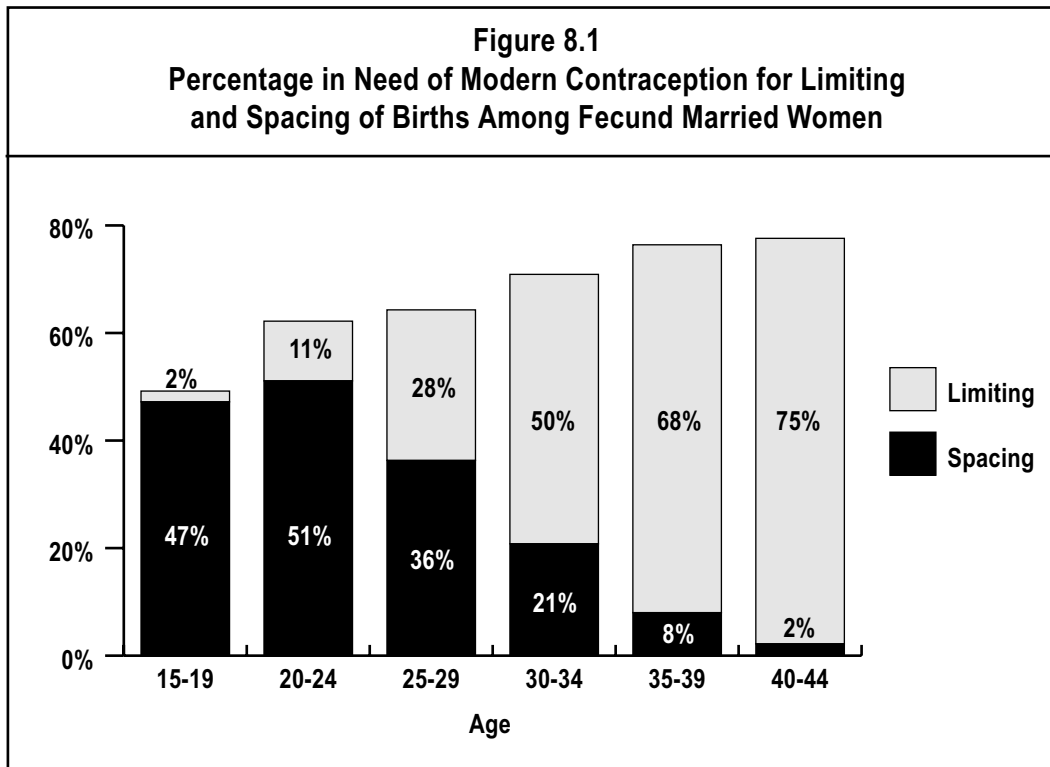
Table 8.2 shows need of any method and modern methods by selected characteristics for all women and currently married

women. Focusing on the two-thirds of married women (68%) in need of a modern method, there is not much variation in need by geographic area of residence, education level, or socioeconomic status. Only married adolescents and women with no children have a substantially lower risk of an unintended pregnancy due the high proportion of these women wanting a pregnancy.

Unmet need among fecund married women is shown in Table 8.3 and Figure 8.1 by future fertility preferences, ie. whether they want to space an additional child or do not want any more children. Knowledge of reproductive intentions can assist providers to help couples choose the correct contraceptive method that will allow them to control if and when to have a pregnancy. Approximately two-thirds (69%) of fecund married women with a risk of an unintended pregnancy do not want any more children. This includes over 75%

of women with 2 or more children or from 35-44 years of age. Only married women with no children or one child and from 15-29 years of age have a greater proportion of those at risk of an unintended pregnancy that want to have a child or additional children.

Table 8.4 summarizes the percentage of the potential demand for modern contraceptive methods “satisfied” for married women by selected characteristics. The first column showing potential demand comes from Table 8.2 and the second column listing the prevalence of modern method use comes from Table 7.3A. The potential demand “satisfied” is the second column divided by the first column. For all married women, only 12% of the potential demand (women at risk of an unintended pregnancy) is satisfied (using a modern contraceptive to prevent an unintended pregnancy). This percentage compares with 54% to 79% of potential demand satisfied in other



countries in Eastern Europe with a recent reproductive health survey. In the Caucasus region, both Armenia and Georgia have 31% of potential demand for modern contraceptive methods met and Azerbaijan has 18% met (CDC and MACRO, 2003). Potential demand satisfied is higher in urban areas and increases with age, educational attainment, socioeconomic status and number of living children. Only women in Metropolitan Tirana (22%), women with a post-secondary education (26%) and women classified as higher socioeconomic status (27%) have reached a level of 20% or higher.

Contraceptive Counseling

In Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union countries, most reproductive health services have been provided by physicians, and in some cases only by obstetricians, who traditionally have received little training in providing client-oriented counseling. The Albanian RHS included a series of questions designed to capture interactions between family planning providers and their clients. Specifically, women who had used a modern contraceptive method or had an abortion during the five years prior to interview were asked about the extent to which health providers provided basic information.

Women who had used at least one modern contraceptive method in the previous five years were asked who advised them to use their most recent modern method. If the advice came from a health care provider (i.e., physician, nurse, etc.) they were asked whether they received any information about other methods, including their comparative effectiveness and possible side effects associated with their use.

As shown in Table 8.5, almost two-thirds (63%) of women were advised by a health care provider (Ob/Gyn, general practitioner or nurse) to use their current or most recent modern method. However, for clinical methods, such as female sterilization and the IUD, 91% and 81%, respectively, were advised by an Ob/Gyn. Three-fourths of pill users (74%) were advised by a health care provider or a pharmacist. Condoms were usually suggested by the partner. About one-half of women (53%) received information about possible side effects, 41% received information about other methods and only 35% received counseling about method effectiveness. Although sample size is small, a higher proportion of women using the IUD received counseling.

Women who terminate their pregnancies in abortion and do not adopt an effective contraceptive method afterwards are probably at high risk for another unintended pregnancy and represent an important group whose family planning needs are not satisfied. A wide range of contraceptive methods, together with accurate information and/or referral for ongoing family planning care, should be made available and accessible to all women who have undergone abortions. As discussed in Chapter 4, women in the national household sample significantly underreported their experience with legally induced abortion. However, it may be instructive to look at the data for those women reporting at least one abortion in the past five years who were asked if they received any contraceptive advice either before or after the abortion procedure and whether they

received any contraceptive method or prescription for a method. As shown in Table 8.6 and Figure 8.2, only a minority of Albanian women who reported having had an abortion received contraceptive counseling before their abortion (18%), after their

abortion (15%) or both before and after (5%). Only one in six women (16%) actually received a method or a prescription for a method. This result appears to confirm a missed opportunity to provide services to women who have just terminated an unintended pregnancy.

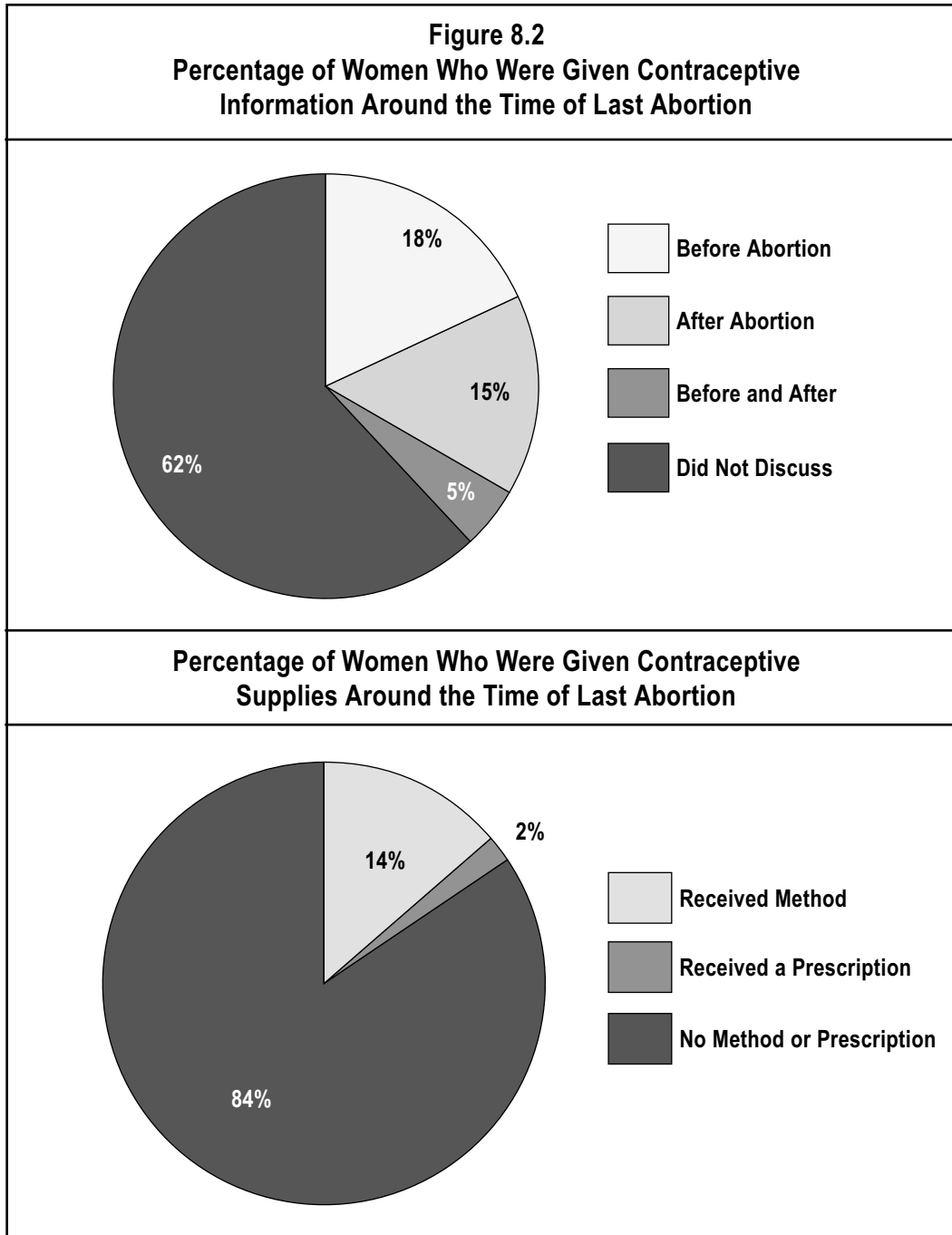


Table 8.1
Potential Demand For Family Planning (FP) Services by Age Group And Marital Status
(Percent Distributions and Percentage)
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Demand for Family Planning Services	Total	Age Group			Marital Status		
		15-24	25-34	35-44	Married	Previously Married	Never Married
Women Not Currently in Need of FP Services	48.8	80.0	36.0	22.5	23.6	94.9	95.5
Never Had Sexual Intercourse	30.1	67.7	11.2	2.8	0.0	0.0	91.8
Not Currently Sexually Active *	11.1	5.9	15.2	13.1	12.2	91.9	3.6
Currently Pregnant or Post-Partum	3.6	4.3	5.5	0.7	5.4	2.5	0.0
Seeking to Get Pregnant	2.2	2.0	3.2	1.2	3.2	0.5	0.1
Infecund/Subfecund ‡	1.8	0.1	0.9	4.7	2.8	0.0	0.0
Potential Demand for FP Services	50.5	19.0	63.0	76.7	75.1	5.1	4.4
Met Need							
Current Users of a Modern Method	5.6	1.5	6.6	9.6	8.0	2.7	1.0
Current Users of a Traditional Method	44.9	17.6	56.3	67.1	67.2	2.4	3.4
Unmet Need							
Non Users at Risk of Unintended Pregnancy	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.2	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Unmet Need For Modern Contraception †	45.7	18.5	57.2	67.8	68.4	2.4	3.4
No. of Cases	5,697	2,030	2,013	1,654	3,965	88	1,644

* Within the past month

† Includes nonusers at risk of unintended pregnancy and current users of traditional contraceptive methods

‡ Sterilization surgery for noncontraceptive reasons, medical conditions that preclude pregnancy, infertile partners, and menopause

Note: The use of withdrawal with a relatively high failure rate may indicate not that fertility control was achieved but only that it was desired (HIMES, 1970). Thus, the unmet need for modern contraception is presented for countries in Eastern Europe where withdrawal is a predominant method (CDC and Macro, 2004).

Table 8.2
Percentage of Women Aged 15-44 Years in Need of Any or Modern Contraceptive Methods
by Selected Characteristics
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristics	All Women			Married Women		
	Any Method	Modern Method	No. of Cases	Any Method	Modern Method	No. of Cases
Total	0.8	45.7	5,697	1.2	68.4	3,965
Strata						
Metro Tirana	1.0	45.4	2,108	1.5	67.8	1,438
Other Urban	0.7	48.3	1,816	1.1	68.8	1,308
Other Rural	0.8	44.4	1,773	1.3	68.3	1,219
Residence						
Urban	0.8	47.4	3,572	1.1	68.5	2,488
Rural	0.8	44.4	2,125	1.3	68.3	1,477
Age Group						
15-19	0.3	6.9	1,094	2.8	49.2	97
20-24	1.5	32.7	936	3.1	61.8	502
25-29	1.1	51.5	946	1.4	63.5	800
30-34	0.7	63.0	1,067	0.8	70.1	1,004
35-39	0.7	68.4	958	0.8	73.4	906
40-44	0.6	67.1	696	0.6	72.5	656
Living Children						
0	0.7	7.1	1,943	5.2	32.3	291
1	1.9	56.9	828	2.0	59.8	800
2	0.7	72.0	1,840	0.7	74.3	1,806
3 +	0.6	72.6	1,086	0.6	74.1	1,068
Education Level						
Primary or Less	0.9	45.1	2,519	1.4	66.6	1,821
Secondary Incomplete	0.1	24.3	653	0.3	63.1	237
Secondary Complete	0.6	55.6	1,830	0.8	72.8	1,487
Post-Secondary	1.6	42.8	695	2.5	66.5	420
Socioeconomic Index						
Low	0.8	48.1	1,940	1.3	71.1	1,429
Medium	0.8	43.4	2,985	1.3	66.5	2,011
High	0.6	47.2	772	0.9	65.3	525

Table 8.3
Percentage of Unmet Need for Contraception among Fecund Married Women
of Reproductive Age by Future Fertility Preferences *
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristics	Unmet Need For Any Contraception			Unmet Need For Modern Contraception			Unmet Need For Limiting of Total	
	Total	Spacing	Limiting	Total	Spacing	Limiting	Limiting Any Method	Limiting Modern Method
Total	1.3	1.0	0.3	70.3	22.0	48.4	23.1	68.8
Strata								
Metro Tirana	1.5	1.2	0.3	69.5	24.8	44.7	20.0	64.3
Other Urban	1.1	0.7	0.4	70.8	20.0	50.8	36.4	71.8
Other Rural	1.3	1.0	0.3	70.3	22.3	48.0	23.1	68.3
Residence								
Urban	1.2	0.9	0.3	70.4	21.1	49.3	25.0	70.0
Rural	1.4	1.0	0.3	70.3	22.6	47.6	21.4	67.7
Age Group								
15-19	2.8	2.8	0.0	49.2	47.2	2.0	0.0	4.1
20-24	3.1	2.8	0.3	62.2	51.1	11.1	9.7	17.8
25-29	1.5	1.0	0.4	64.3	36.3	28.0	26.7	43.5
30-34	0.8	0.4	0.4	70.8	20.8	50.1	50.0	70.8
35-39	0.8	0.7	0.1	76.4	8.0	68.4	12.5	89.5
40-44	0.7	0.2	0.5	77.6	2.2	75.4	71.4	97.2
Living Children								
0	5.8	5.5	0.3	36.1	34.6	1.6	0.0	4.4
1	2.0	2.0	0.0	60.9	53.1	7.8	0.0	12.8
2	0.8	0.4	0.3	76.0	17.9	58.1	37.5	76.4
3+	0.6	0.1	0.5	75.8	7.0	68.9	83.3	90.9
Education Level								
Primary or Less	1.4	1.1	0.4	68.5	22.8	45.7	28.6	66.7
Secondary Incomplete	0.3	0.3	0.0	65.6	26.2	39.4	0.0	60.1
Secondary Complete	0.9	0.5	0.3	74.9	19.6	55.2	33.3	73.7
Post-Secondary	2.6	2.4	0.1	67.7	22.8	44.9	3.8	66.3
Socioeconomic Index								
Low	1.3	1.0	0.3	73.2	22.2	51.0	23.1	69.7
Medium	1.3	0.9	0.4	68.4	21.8	46.6	30.8	68.1
High	1.0	1.0	0.0	66.4	21.7	44.7	0.0	67.3

* Excludes 99 women classified as subfecund or infecund

Table 8.4
Percentage of Potential Demand for Modern Contraceptive Methods Satisfied
Married Women 15-44 Years of Age At Risk of an Unintended Pregnancy
By Selected Characteristics
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristics	Total Potential Demand for Modern Methods	Percent Using Modern Methods	Percentage of Potential Demand for Modern Methods Satisfied
Total	68.4	8.0	11.7
Strata			
Metro Tirana	67.8	14.9	22.0
Other Urban	68.8	9.4	13.7
Other Rural	68.3	5.1	7.5
Residence			
Urban	68.5	11.3	16.5
Rural	68.3	5.5	8.1
Age Group			
15-19	49.2	2.5	5.1
20-24	61.8	3.7	6.0
25-29	63.5	5.3	8.3
30-34	70.1	9.4	13.4
35-39	73.4	9.3	12.7
40-44	72.5	10.9	15.0
Live Children			
0	32.3	2.2	6.8
1	59.8	3.1	5.2
2	74.3	9.1	12.2
3 +	74.1	10.7	14.4
Education Level			
Primary or Less	66.6	5.8	8.7
Secondary Incomplete	63.1	9.5	15.1
Secondary Complete	72.8	9.4	12.9
Post-Secondary	66.5	17.2	25.9
Socioeconomic Index			
Low	71.1	6.2	8.7
Medium	66.5	7.9	11.9
High	65.3	17.8	27.3

Table 8.5
Advise on Using Modern Methods by Method
and Type of Counseling: Ever Users of Modern Methods
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Advise Last Method	Total	Last Used Contraceptive Method (Percent Distribution)			
		Condom	Female Sterilization	Pill / Hormonal	IUD
OB/GYN	57.6	10.7	91.3	52.6	81.0
Partner	21.0	61.3	0.2	6.7	0.0
Nobody	8.6	18.8	3.8	5.2	0.0
Nurse/Midwife/Feldcher	3.5	1.6	1.6	10.3	5.8
Friend	2.7	1.2	1.0	7.8	7.3
Pharmacist	2.3	3.1	0.0	6.8	0.0
General Practitioner	2.3	1.1	2.1	4.7	2.0
Mother/Other Relative	2.0	2.1	0.0	5.9	3.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Cases	509	193	175	110	31
% With Counseling	63.4	13.5	95.0	67.6	88.8

Type of Counseling	Total	Last Used Contraceptive Method (Percentage)			
		Condom	Female Sterilization	Pill / Hormonal	IUD
General Information About Other Methods	40.9	**	26.1	61.5	78.9
Information About Method Effectiveness	34.8	**	21.1	55.4	67.8
Information About Possible Side Effects	53.4	**	45.4	67.5	70.7
No. of Cases	287	22	160	76	29

** Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 8.6
Counseling and Contraception Offered
at the Time of Legally Performed Abortions
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristics	Percentage Reporting that MD Discussed Contraception with Them			Percent Distribution of Receipt of Contraceptive Method			Total	No. of Cases
	Yes, Before Abortion	Yes, After Abortion	Yes, Before And After	Received a Method	Received a Prescription	No Method or Prescription		
Total	18.3	15.3	4.7	13.7	2.1	84.2	100.0	235
Strata								
Metro Tirana	15.1	26.0	5.4	15.4	5.4	79.2	100.0	109
Other Urban	21.1	14.4	6.1	12.3	1.9	85.7	100.0	92
Other Rural	16.8	9.3	2.3	14.3	0.0	85.7	100.0	34
Residence								
Urban	19.1	18.3	5.7	13.5	3.2	83.3	100.0	190
Rural	16.9	9.9	2.7	14.0	0.0	86.0	100.0	45
Mother's Age at Abortion								
15-24	9.0	20.5	1.1	9.2	1.1	89.7	100.0	50
25-34	20.0	14.1	5.7	16.4	2.6	81.0	100.0	147
35-44	22.2	13.9	5.0	8.9	1.3	89.8	100.0	38
Education Level								
Primary or Less	16.5	15.6	5.3	16.4	1.1	82.6	100.0	114
Secondary Incomplete or Higher	20.7	14.8	3.8	10.0	3.4	86.5	100.0	121
Socioeconomic Index								
Low	19.7	13.8	3.4	16.1	0.0	83.9	100.0	71
Medium	16.6	15.0	5.6	9.0	3.8	87.2	100.0	111
High	19.3	20.4	5.5	20.7	2.8	76.4	100.0	53
Where Abortion Performed*								
Hospital / Maternity	21.8	17.1	6.4	16.5	1.7	81.8	100.0	166
Private Clinic / Office	9.7	14.5	0.0	6.3	4.3	89.4	100.0	62

* Excludes 7 cases that reported abortion performed in "other" location.

CHAPTER 9

OPINIONS ABOUT CONTRACEPTION AND ABORTION

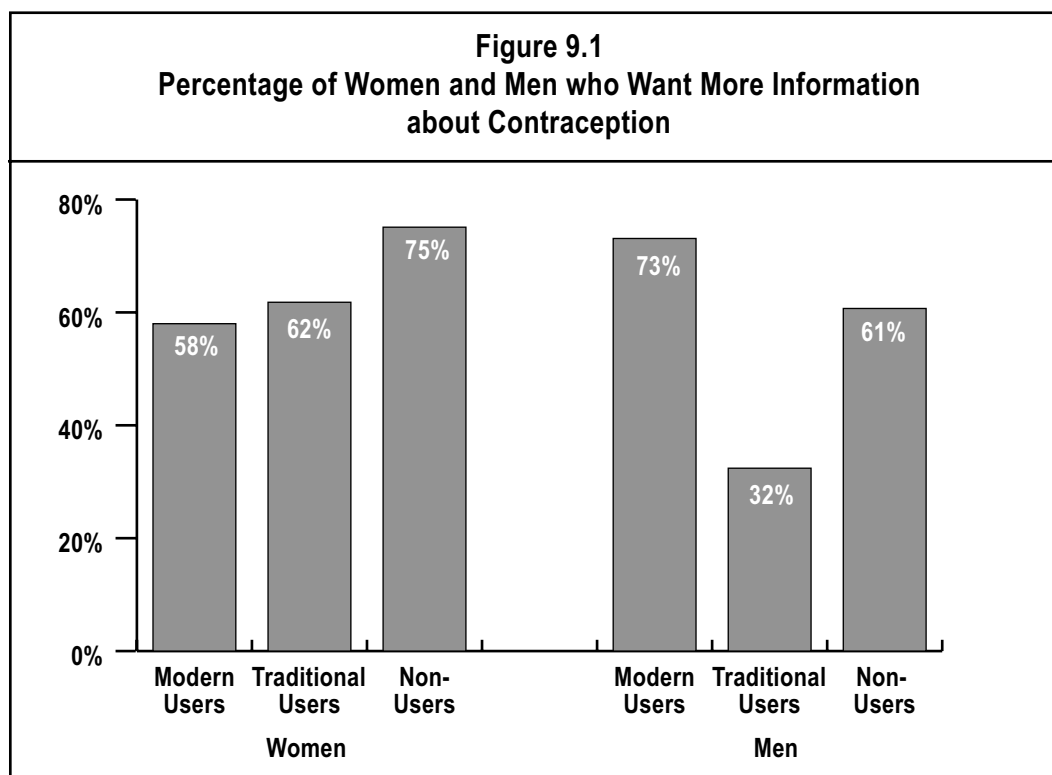
Introduction

For five decades Albanians lived without access to modern contraception and abortion or even accurate information on the topics. Part of the purpose of the Albania RHS 2002 was to assess Albanians' interest in obtaining more information about contraception and their opinions about the advantages, disadvantages, and safety of known methods. Specifically, survey questions asked about desire for more contraceptive information, preferred source of such information, whether contraceptive information should be broadcast over television and radio, advantage/disadvantages of the intrauterine device (IUD) and oral contraceptives, and safety of selected methods of contraception and of abortion. These data on the opinions of the nation's reproductive age population can help direct efforts to meet the needs for accurate information about modern

contraceptive methods in ways that suit the preferences of Albanian men and women

Desire for More Information about Contraception

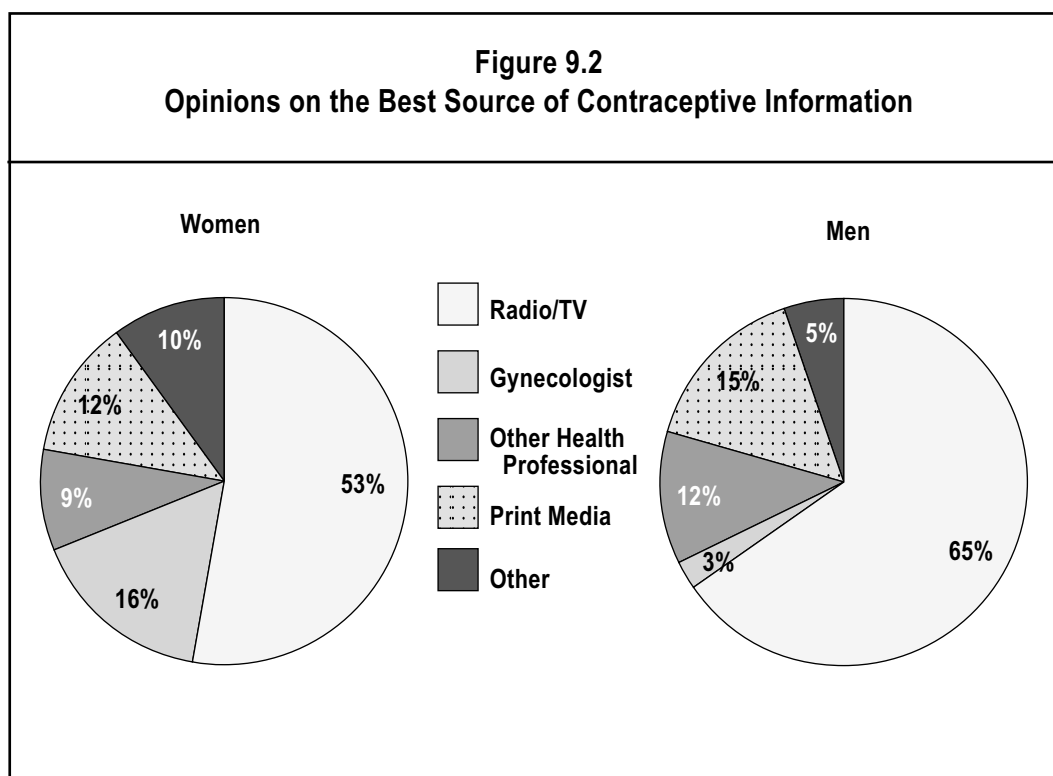
Slightly more than two-thirds of Albanian women (68%) and nearly half of Albanian men (48%) wanted more information about contraception (Table 9.1). Desire for contraceptive information was not affected by survey strata or urban/rural residence. For both men and women, interest in more information about contraceptive methods declined as age and number of living children increased. Desire for information was nearly equal for women and men aged 15–19, 85% and 82%, respectively. Figure 9.1 shows that among women, interest was higher for those not currently using any contraception (75%) compared to those using either traditional or modern methods (58% and 62%), but among men, interest



was higher among both non-users (61%) and modern method users (73%) than those using traditional methods (32%). For women, interest in family planning information increased with socioeconomic status, but interest was higher among men of low and middle SES. Women with post-secondary education were more interested in contraceptive information, but education appeared to have no impact on interest among men. Women who are less than 25 years old, women who have no living children and women who have never been married are most likely to want more information about contraception (83%-85%). Men reporting a high level of interest are less than 20 years old (82%), but interest is also very high (71%-74%) among those who have never been married, have no living children, or are currently using a modern method of contraception (mostly condom).

Opinion on the Best source of Contraceptive Information

Among women who want more information about contraception, more than half (53%) think that radio or television would be the best source of that information (Table 9.2A and Figure 9.2). One in six women think a gynecologist would be the best source and 12% favor print media such as newspapers or brochures. Radio and television were most popular among rural women, divorced and widowed women, and women currently using condoms. Preference for receiving contraceptive information through mass electronic media increased with age and number of living children and decreased with increasing SES and educational level. Gynecologist as the best source of information was preferred most by women in metro Tirana, urban women, and women using modern contraceptive methods other than condoms and tubal ligation. Women



also were more likely to name a gynecologist as the best source of information as education and socioeconomic status increased. Printed information was most preferred by almost a third of women with post-secondary education (31%), nearly as many as named television and radio (37%). Younger women, never married, better educated women, and those with higher socioeconomic status and no children, showed a greater interest in family planning information in print form.

Most Albanian men who wanted more information about contraceptive methods thought the best sources to be radio or television (65%), print media (15%), or a health professional other than a gynecologist (12%) (Table 9.2B and Figure 9.2). Radio and TV were most favored by rural men, younger men, men with two living children, those not using a modern method of contraception, and those with less than a college education. Also, interest in receiving information over the airwaves was inversely related to socioeconomic status. Men most likely to report that a health professional would be the best source of contraceptive information are those aged 40–44, or with three or more living children. Such health professionals were generally more often named by men over the age of 24, currently married men, men with lower socioeconomic status, primary education or less, and those already using some method of contraception.

Opinion on Appropriateness of Broadcasting Contraceptive Information on Radio and Television

The Albania RHS 2002 asked all respondents whether information about contraception should be broadcast over television and radio. This question helps determine whether such broadcasts would be acceptable to the general population.

Additional questions ask both men and women how much time they spend listening to radio or watching television, what time of day, and which stations and types of programs they favor. While these data are not included in this report, they are available for use in developing targeted IEC programs.

Nine out of ten (90%) women think contraceptive information should be broadcast (Table 9.3). There is little variation across characteristics, although women aged 20–24, of high SES or with post-secondary education are most likely to agree that this information should be available over the broadcast media (94%–96 %).

Approximately three-quarters of men (77%) think that information about contraception should be broadcast on radio or television (Table 9.3). Approval for broadcasting such information decreases as age and number of living children increases, and increases with SES and education. Currently married men are less likely than those still unmarried to think family planning information should be broadcast (69% vs. 89%), and men aged 45–49 or with 3 or more living children are least likely to accept such information on TV and the radio (58% and 57%, respectively).

Opinions Regarding the Advantages and Disadvantages of Pill and IUD Use

Women who have heard of the birth control pill were presented with a series of statements expressing advantages and disadvantages of using the Pill. Advantages presented were that the Pill is easy to use, easy to get, makes periods more regular, reduces menstrual cramps, protects against cancer, and decreases monthly blood loss. Potential disadvantages presented were

that it can be stressful to remember to take the Pill everyday, pills make you gain weight, are too expensive, and are bad for circulation.

More than half of Albanian women who have heard of oral contraceptives think the Pill is easy to procure (68%) and easy to use (58%) (Table 9.4). Only one in five (19%) knows that the Pill can regulate the menstrual cycle and only one in ten knows that the Pill can reduce menstrual cramps, blood loss, and the risk of certain cancers. Agreement with these advantages was generally close between urban and rural women, although urban women were somewhat more likely to know that pills can decrease blood loss. Women with education beyond secondary school were more aware of benefits from birth control pills than were women with primary education or less.

Approximately one-third of Albanian women agreed that the Pill can be stressful to remember to take (33%) or cause weight gain (32%), and a much smaller proportion thought that the Pill is too expensive (11%) or bad for circulation (8%). Urban women were somewhat more likely to agree that taking the Pill is stressful or causes weight gain, while women with higher education were much more likely to agree with these disadvantages.

Women were also presented with a similar set of statements regarding the advantages and disadvantages of IUD use. Statements about the possible advantages were that the IUD is Easy to use, relatively inexpensive, and decreases the risk of ectopic pregnancy. Possible disadvantages were that the IUD increases the risk of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), may cause spotting between periods, may increase menstrual blood loss, and may increase painful menstruation.

Slightly more than a third (37%) of women agreed that the IUD is easy to use (Table 9.5). Agreement with this statement was consistent across residence and education, ranging from 33% to 39%. Twenty two percent agreed that the IUD was relatively inexpensive, and a higher proportion of women with post-secondary education agreed (31%). Less than 15% of women, overall, incorrectly stated that the IUD decreases risk of ectopic pregnancy.

Agreement with the disadvantages was low as well. Almost a third of women (32%) agreed that IUD use increases the risk of PID, and that agreement increased with education. The percent of women agreeing with the other disadvantages (causes spotting between periods, increases menstrual blood loss, and increases painful menstruation) also increased with educational attainment. However, given the small sample size of women who have heard of the IUD, the differences for the education variable are not statistically significant. While knowledge of advantages and disadvantages is low, this may be a result of the low level of IUD use in the country.

Opinions on Risks to Women's Health Due to Use of Selected Birth Prevention Methods

All respondents were asked their opinion of the degree of risk (low, medium, or high) posed to a woman's health by selected methods of family planning, including the Pill, IUD, condom, tubal ligation, and abortion. Anywhere from a third of respondents to nearly 90% felt they did not know enough about a given method to assess its health risk (Table 9.6).

More than half of Albanian women surveyed did not know how great or small a risk the Pill, the IUD, or tubal ligation posed to a woman's health. Most women had opinions about condoms and abortion.

The condom was generally believed to be low risk (47%) and abortion medium or high risk (23% and 40%, respectively).

More than two-thirds of Albanian men did not have enough knowledge to assess the risks the Pill, the IUD, or tubal ligation posed to a woman's health. Most men did report an opinion about the risk associated with condom and abortion. Sixty-four percent of Albanian men felt the condom posed a low degree of risk to a woman but 44% felt that abortion was of at least medium risk (18% medium, and 26% high).

In Tables 9.7 through 9.10, more detailed analyses are presented only for those birth prevention methods for which roughly half or more of respondents had an opinion. A look at women's perception of health risks from the contraceptive pill by selected characteristics shows that rural women, those under twenty years of age, with less than secondary education, or of low SES are the most likely to respond that they do not know what risks there might be (Table 9.7). Women more likely to have an opinion are those with a post-secondary education, of high SES, or those using a modern method of contraception other than tubal ligation. Most women with an opinion attribute a medium risk to the Pill, but previously married women and those currently using the Pill are more likely to say that the Pill poses a low risk to a woman's health.

Nearly half of Albanian women did not have enough knowledge to assess condoms' potential health risks. Women were more likely to have formed an opinion as their education and socioeconomic status increased, if they lived in metropolitan Tirana or other urban areas, and if they used a modern method of contraception other than tubal ligation (Table 9.8A). The vast majority of women with an opinion felt that the condom poses a low health risk to

a woman. Condom users, especially, held the opinion that condoms pose a low risk (95%).

More than two-thirds of Albanian men had an opinion on condoms' health risks to women, although more than half of men 45–49 years of age or with three or more children did not know enough about condoms to form an opinion (Table 9.8B). As with the women, the vast majority of men who had an opinion rated condoms' health risks as low.

Slightly more than half of Albanian women surveyed did not know whether tubal ligation posed a health risk, but the proportion of women without an opinion decreased as age, educational level and SES increased (Table 9.9). Never married women, those with no living children, and those who are not using any form of contraception were much less likely to have an opinion, while most women who are surgically sterilized did have an opinion about the risks of the procedure. In general, few women with an opinion were inclined to say tubal ligation posed a high risk to a woman's health (8%). Most felt there was medium risk (27%), with about half as many assessing a low risk (13%).

Opinions on Risks to Women's Health Due to Abortion

About two-thirds of Albanian women had an opinion on the possible health risks posed to a woman by abortion, and nearly all of those attributed a medium or high risk to the procedure (Table 9.10A). Women were more likely to have an opinion on abortion risks as level of education and socioeconomic status increased, and if they lived in Metro Tirana or an urban area, or had ever had an abortion. Women under age twenty and those with no living children were less likely to have formed an opinion about the health risk from abortion. Most

women with an opinion felt that abortion posed a high risk to a woman's health and roughly one-third attributed a medium risk. Almost half of women who reported ever having had an abortion perceived that the procedure posed a high risk to women's health.

Albanian men were less able to give an opinion on the risks that abortion might pose to women's health (44% of the total responded "don't know") (Table 9.10B). Men aged 15–19 were least likely to have an opinion (40%), while those with post-secondary education or high SES were more likely to have an opinion (68% and 70%, respectively), and users of modern contraception were the most likely to do so (89%). Generally, men felt that abortion was a medium- to high-risk procedure, with high risk accounting for one-fifth to nearly one-half of all men's responses (21%–49%) across characteristics.

Concluding Comments

These findings from the Albania RHS 2002 indicate that Albanians in general, both men and women, want and need to know

more about modern contraceptive methods so that they can decide which method or methods may be best for them as they plan their families. They want to receive this information by television and radio, and such broadcasts would be acceptable to most men and women. Women are less than knowledgeable of the benefits and disadvantages that come with using an IUD or the Pill, important facts that can affect a woman's decision to begin using these methods or to continue to do so when unexpected side effects occur. Albanian men and women express uncertainty about the health risks from using modern contraceptive methods; more information would likely reduce fear of such methods. Men and women alike are suspicious of health risks due to abortion, which would seem to make them more open to using effective modern methods of contraception if they have enough information to make informed decisions. By simply meeting the demand for contraceptive information, reproductive health programs may very well generate demand for modern contraceptive methods.

Table 9.1
Percentage Who Want More Information about Contraception
by Selected Characteristics
Among Women Aged 15–44 and Men Aged 15–49
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Women Who Want More Information %	No. of Cases	Men Who Want More Information %	No. of Cases
Total	68.1	5,697	47.6	1,740
Strata				
Metro Tirana	67.7	2,108	48.1	718
Other Urban	68.2	1,816	48.3	547
Other Rural	68.2	1,773	47.0	475
Residence				
Urban	68.5	3,572	47.9	1,155
Rural	67.8	2,125	47.3	585
Age Group				
15–19	85.0	1,094	82.3	401
20–24	83.0	936	66.6	189
25–29	71.9	946	57.5	218
30–34	62.9	1,067	41.1	253
35–39	56.0	958	31.3	255
40–44	41.9	696	20.4	277
45–49	N/A	N/A	16.1	147
Marital Status				
Currently Married	60.5	3,965	31.1	1,023
Previously Married	45.6	88	**	14
Never Married	84.7	1,644	73.5	703
Living Children				
0	83.6	1,943	71.0	815
1	68.6	828	40.7	221
2	60.4	1,840	31.1	468
3+	51.2	1,086	15.9	236
Education Level				
Primary or Less	66.5	2,519	47.0	689
Secondary	68.5	2,483	48.4	825
Post-Secondary	77.3	695	46.6	226
Socioeconomic Index				
Low	65.5	1,940	47.4	638
Medium	69.7	2,985	49.2	814
High	72.5	772	41.9	288
Current Method of Contraception				
Modern	58.0	456	73.1	98
Traditional	61.8	2,739	32.4	804
Non-User	75.1	2,502	60.7	838

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 9.2 A
Percent Distribution of Women's Opinion on the Best Source of Contraceptive Information
by Selected Characteristics
Among Women 15–44 Who Want More Information About Contraception
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Radio/ TV	Gyne- colo- gist	Print Media	Other Health Pro- fessional	Relative/ Partner/ Boyfriend	Friend/ Cowork- er/ Contracep- tive User	Teacher	Other/ Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	52.8	16.3	11.7	8.8	4.1	2.8	1.4	2.1	100.0	3,885
Strata										
Metro Tirana	45.6	25.8	12.9	5.5	4.8	3.3	1.4	0.8	100.0	1,442
Other Urban	48.0	18.1	18.7	6.5	3.3	2.3	1.6	1.6	100.0	1,237
Other Rural	57.5	12.6	7.6	11.0	4.4	2.9	1.3	2.8	100.0	1,206
Residence										
Urban	47.1	21.2	16.7	5.9	3.7	2.7	1.5	1.2	100.0	2,464
Rural	57.1	12.6	7.9	10.9	4.4	2.9	1.3	2.8	100.0	1,421
Age Group										
15–19	49.3	11.1	13.7	5.7	9.0	4.0	4.8	2.4	100.0	923
20–24	52.6	16.9	12.6	8.4	4.5	2.9	0.3	1.8	100.0	769
25–29	50.9	18.6	13.2	9.7	3.1	2.2	0.2	2.0	100.0	663
30–34	54.6	18.4	9.2	12.2	0.8	2.7	0.1	2.1	100.0	671
35–39	56.8	18.7	8.7	12.1	0.4	1.7	0.0	1.5	100.0	545
40–44	58.0	18.9	9.8	6.9	1.5	2.0	0.0	3.0	100.0	314
Marital Status										
Currently Married	56.7	18.5	8.8	10.3	1.5	2.3	0.1	1.8	100.0	2,445
Previously Married	67.7	10.3	1.5	15.5	1.0	1.0	0.0	2.9	100.0	48
Never Married	46.7	13.4	16.2	6.4	7.9	3.7	3.2	2.6	100.0	1,392
Living Children										
0	47.7	13.8	15.3	6.8	7.4	3.7	2.8	2.3	100.0	1,611
1	53.8	20.9	10.3	9.1	1.2	2.9	0.2	1.6	100.0	563
2	57.6	19.1	10.1	8.1	1.4	1.6	0.2	1.9	100.0	1,134
3+	59.1	15.6	5.1	14.8	1.1	2.0	0.0	2.3	100.0	577
Education Level										
Primary or Less	58.2	13.2	6.8	10.7	3.9	3.3	1.0	2.9	100.0	1,649
Secondary	49.2	19.0	13.9	7.3	4.9	2.1	2.1	1.5	100.0	1,709
Post-Secondary	36.5	23.0	30.8	3.7	1.9	3.0	1.0	0.0	100.0	527
Socioeconomic Index										
Low	56.9	13.8	7.3	11.4	4.4	2.3	1.2	2.6	100.0	1,241
Medium	51.0	16.5	14.3	7.7	3.9	3.1	1.4	2.0	100.0	2,090
High	43.8	26.4	17.0	2.8	4.2	3.3	1.8	0.7	100.0	554
Current Method of Contraception										
Tubal Ligation	54.8	17.4	9.8	16.8	0.7	0.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	70
Condom	60.7	21.6	10.0	4.8	0.0	2.4	0.5	0.0	100.0	123
Other Modern	43.8	36.4	10.7	9.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	94
Traditional	54.7	19.4	9.2	10.7	1.4	2.2	0.2	2.2	100.0	1,708
Non-User	51.3	13.2	13.7	7.2	6.5	3.4	2.4	2.3	100.0	1,890

Table 9.2 B
Percent Distribution of Men's Opinion on the Best Source of Contraceptive Information
by Selected Characteristics
Among Men Aged 15–49 Who Want More Information About Contraception
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Radio/ TV	Print Media	Other Health Pro- fessional	Friend/ Cowork- er/ Contracep- tive User	Gyne- cologist	Teacher	Relative/ Partner/ Girlfriend	Other/ Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	65.4	15.2	11.6	3.2	2.6	1.2	0.3	0.5	100.0	863
Strata										
Metro Tirana	54.2	24.3	11.0	2.9	4.4	2.7	0.3	0.3	100.0	351
Other Urban	62.1	17.2	8.6	5.9	4.3	0.8	0.0	1.1	100.0	277
Other Rural	71.9	10.4	13.6	1.6	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.2	100.0	235
Residence										
Urban	59.2	19.3	9.5	5.0	4.5	1.6	0.1	0.9	100.0	571
Rural	70.9	11.7	13.4	1.6	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.2	100.0	292
Age Group										
15–19	70.2	15.6	7.3	3.3	0.7	2.5	0.2	0.3	100.0	328
20–24	68.3	19.5	4.5	2.1	2.6	1.2	0.0	1.7	100.0	131
25–29	62.1	13.3	18.3	3.8	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	122
30–34	61.8	12.8	15.6	3.6	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	105
35–39	61.3	10.3	15.7	6.2	4.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	88
40–44	52.9	18.8	25.0	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	61
45–49	64.1	11.5	13.2	1.6	1.6	0.0	6.5	1.6	100.0	28
Marital Status										
Currently Married	63.7	13.0	15.9	2.0	4.1	0.4	0.6	0.2	100.0	335
Previously Married	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	6
Never Married	66.5	16.6	8.7	3.9	1.6	1.8	0.1	0.8	100.0	522
Living Children										
0	65.6	16.6	10.1	3.7	1.7	1.6	0.1	0.7	100.0	580
1	61.2	13.6	15.6	0.0	9.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	89
2	70.1	13.4	9.2	2.9	3.3	0.7	0.0	0.4	100.0	153
3+	57.3	7.7	28.1	2.8	0.0	0.0	4.1	0.0	100.0	41
Education Level										
Primary or Less	67.8	9.3	17.1	3.1	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.9	100.0	340
Secondary	65.9	16.9	7.5	3.8	4.0	1.8	0.1	0.0	100.0	419
Post-Secondary	50.3	39.4	1.7	0.5	5.0	2.4	0.0	0.7	100.0	104
Socioeconomic Index										
Low	71.1	8.7	14.2	3.4	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.7	100.0	321
Medium	60.7	19.7	10.1	3.6	3.5	2.1	0.1	0.3	100.0	414
High	58.5	27.2	5.2	0.0	7.1	1.1	0.3	0.7	100.0	128
Current Method of Contraception										
Modern	41.8	22.8	17.1	3.5	8.5	0.0	0.0	6.3	100.0	68
Traditional	66.8	12.9	15.1	2.2	2.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	273
Non-User	67.1	15.7	9.1	3.6	2.0	1.8	0.5	0.2	100.0	522

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 9.3
Percentage Who Think That Information about Contraception
Should be Broadcast on Radio or Television
by Selected Characteristics
Among Women Aged 15–44 and Men Aged 15–49
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Women	No. of Cases	Men	No. of Cases
Total	90.0	5,697	76.9	1,740
Strata				
Metro Tirana	91.1	2,108	82.5	718
Other Urban	91.6	1,816	79.5	547
Other Rural	88.9	1,773	73.1	475
Residence				
Urban	91.8	3,572	81.0	1,155
Rural	88.7	2,125	73.2	585
Age Group				
15–19	90.6	1,094	90.9	401
20–24	94.3	936	86.9	189
25–29	91.7	946	84.2	218
30–34	89.7	1,067	76.8	253
35–39	88.4	958	66.7	255
40–44	84.7	696	66.5	277
45–49	N/A	N/A	57.8	147
Marital Status				
Currently Married	89.5	3,965	68.9	1,023
Previously Married	83.4	88	**	14
Never Married	91.6	1,644	88.9	703
Living Children				
0	92.0	1,943	89.1	815
1	92.2	828	76.7	221
2	89.2	1,840	69.2	468
3+	86.6	1,086	56.8	236
Education Level				
Primary or Less	87.5	2,519	72.7	689
Secondary	92.3	2,483	80.1	825
Post-Secondary	96.2	695	83.7	226
Socioeconomic Index				
Low	86.8	1,940	71.5	638
Medium	92.0	2,985	79.6	814
High	94.9	772	90.0	288
Current Method of Contraception				
Modern	92.2	456	95.7	98
Traditional	89.8	2,739	70.9	804
Non-User	90.0	2,502	81.2	838

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 9.4
Percentage Who Agree with Selected Statements Concerning Possible
Advantages and Disadvantages of Using the Pill, by Residence and Education
Among Women Aged 15–44 Who Have Heard of the Pill
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania 2002

Statements	Total	Residence		Education Level		
		Urban	Rural	Primary Or Less	Secondary	Post-Secondary
Advantages						
Pills Are Easy to Procure	67.9	72.1	63.6	62.6	69.5	81.7
Pills Are Easy to Use	58.1	59.0	57.2	54.8	58.7	68.4
Pills Regulate Periods	18.9	21.4	16.5	13.1	20.2	36.6
Pills Decrease Menstrual Cramps	10.5	11.4	9.5	6.6	12.1	19.0
Pills Protect Against Cancer	10.5	11.2	9.9	7.2	12.8	14.4
Pills Decrease Blood Loss	9.7	12.4	7.0	5.9	11.2	19.0
Disadvantages						
Stressful to Remember to Take the Pill	32.9	35.8	30.0	28.4	34.7	43.4
Pills Make You Gain Weight	32.2	36.8	27.6	25.1	35.3	47.7
Pills Are Too Expensive	11.0	11.1	10.9	11.4	11.1	9.3
Pills Are Bad for Circulation	8.0	8.2	7.8	6.4	8.5	12.0
Number of Cases	4,178	2,887	1,291	1,475	2,031	672

Table 9.5
Percentage Who Agree with Selected Statements Concerning Possible Advantages and Disadvantages of Using the IUD, by Residence and Education Among Women Aged 15–44 Who Have Heard of the IUD
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania 2002

Statements	Total	Residence		Education Level		
		Urban	Rural	Primary Or Less	Secondary	Post-Secondary
Advantages						
IUD is Easy to Use	36.5	35.0	38.6	32.5	39.4	36.0
IUD is Relatively Inexpensive	22.4	23.2	21.3	20.3	21.0	30.5
IUD Decreases Risk of Ectopic Pregnancy	14.4	16.2	11.7	9.3	15.6	20.6
Disadvantages						
Increases Risk of Pelvic Inflammantory Disease	31.6	30.5	33.2	27.1	32.6	37.5
IUD May Cause Spotting Between Periods	21.2	20.0	23.0	20.8	20.0	25.3
IUD May Increase Menstrual Blood Loss	15.3	14.0	17.2	14.3	14.9	18.0
IUD May Increase Painful Menstruation	14.8	14.2	15.6	13.2	14.9	17.5
Number of Cases	1,643	1,244	399	433	835	375

Table 9.6
Percent Distribution of Opinion of Degree of Risk to a Woman's Health from Using Selected Birth Prevention Methods Among Women Aged 15-44 and Men Aged 15-49
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Birth Prevention Method	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk	Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Women						
Pill	12.8	26.5	6.6	54.2	100.0	5,697
IUD	3.4	8.9	3.6	84.1	100.0	5,697
Condom	46.6	7.3	1.4	44.7	100.0	5,697
Tubal Ligation	12.7	26.8	7.6	52.9	100.0	5,697
Abortion	4.3	22.9	39.7	33.1	100.0	5,697
Men						
Pill	13.0	10.7	3.7	72.7	100.0	1,740
IUD	4.3	4.4	2.6	88.8	100.0	1,740
Condom	64.4	6.3	0.1	29.3	100.0	1,740
Tubal Ligation	3.4	7.8	7.3	81.6	100.0	1,740
Abortion	11.8	18.3	25.9	44.1	100.0	1,740

Table 9.7
Percent Distribution of Opinion of Degree of Risk to a Woman's Health From Using the Pill
by Selected Characteristics Among Women Aged 15–44
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk	Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	12.8	26.5	6.6	54.2	100.0	5,697
Strata						
Metro Tirana	16.4	32.3	8.9	42.3	100.0	2,108
Other Urban	14.1	31.9	6.3	47.8	100.0	1,816
Other Rural	11.0	22.0	6.0	61.1	100.0	1,773
Residence						
Urban	14.9	32.4	7.2	45.5	100.0	3,572
Rural	11.1	22.1	6.1	60.7	100.0	2,125
Age						
15–19	8.8	23.7	3.7	63.8	100.0	1,094
20–24	15.5	22.8	8.6	53.1	100.0	936
25–29	12.8	29.8	8.6	48.7	100.0	946
30–34	15.8	27.9	6.5	49.8	100.0	1,067
35–39	12.4	27.6	6.2	53.8	100.0	958
40–44	12.4	28.6	6.6	52.5	100.0	696
Marital Status						
Currently Married	13.1	27.4	7.1	52.4	100.0	3,965
Previously Married	24.0	26.7	5.8	43.5	100.0	88
Never Married	11.3	24.9	5.6	58.3	100.0	1,644
Living Children						
0	11.2	25.6	5.6	57.7	100.0	1,943
1	17.0	24.2	7.7	51.1	100.0	828
2	14.0	30.5	7.0	48.4	100.0	1,840
3+	11.4	24.7	7.1	56.9	100.0	1,086
Education Level						
Primary or Less	10.0	19.7	5.7	64.7	100.0	2,519
Secondary	14.6	32.1	7.6	43.5	100.0	2,483
Post-Secondary	22.5	46.3	10.3	21.0	100.0	695
Socioeconomic Index						
Low	9.5	19.3	5.7	65.4	100.0	1,940
Medium	14.4	30.5	6.7	48.4	100.0	2,985
High	19.2	39.9	9.8	31.1	100.0	772
Current Method of Contraception						
Tubal Ligation	12.2	34.4	5.5	47.9	100.0	173
Pill	78.7	19.6	0.0	1.7	100.0	74
Condom	11.7	53.7	11.6	23.0	100.0	165
Other Modern	22.9	39.0	13.8	24.4	100.0	44
Traditional	12.8	27.7	7.2	52.3	100.0	2,739
Non-User	11.7	24.1	5.9	58.3	100.0	2,502

Table 9.8 A
Percent Distribution of Opinion of Degree of Risk to a Woman's Health From Using the Condom
by Selected Characteristics Among Women Aged 15–44
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk	Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	46.6	7.3	1.4	44.7	100.0	5,697
Strata						
Metro Tirana	61.0	7.1	0.8	31.1	100.0	2,108
Other Urban	52.6	8.2	1.0	38.2	100.0	1,816
Other Rural	39.1	6.8	1.8	52.3	100.0	1,773
Residence						
Urban	56.3	7.9	0.9	34.9	100.0	3,572
Rural	39.3	6.8	1.7	52.1	100.0	2,125
Age						
15–19	45.5	4.8	1.4	48.3	100.0	1,094
20–24	52.6	6.2	1.6	39.6	100.0	936
25–29	49.4	8.4	0.9	41.3	100.0	946
30–34	46.0	9.4	1.5	43.0	100.0	1,067
35–39	43.3	8.9	1.0	46.9	100.0	958
40–44	42.4	6.8	2.0	48.7	100.0	696
Marital Status						
Currently Married	45.7	8.3	1.5	44.5	100.0	3,965
Previously Married	47.9	8.9	2.3	40.8	100.0	88
Never Married	48.3	5.1	1.2	45.4	100.0	1,644
Living Children						
0	48.5	5.5	1.1	44.8	100.0	1,943
1	51.1	8.5	1.3	39.0	100.0	828
2	48.4	9.7	2.1	39.8	100.0	1,840
3+	38.4	6.5	1.1	53.9	100.0	1,086
Education Level						
Primary or Less	37.2	7.2	1.4	54.2	100.0	2,519
Secondary	53.6	7.4	1.3	37.8	100.0	2,483
Post-Secondary	76.3	7.4	2.0	14.3	100.0	695
Socioeconomic Index						
Low	35.3	6.6	1.8	56.2	100.0	1,940
Medium	52.4	7.7	1.1	38.7	100.0	2,985
High	69.1	7.9	1.1	21.9	100.0	772
Current Method of Contraception						
Tubal Ligation	52.3	4.1	0.0	43.6	100.0	173
Condom	95.2	0.4	0.4	4.1	100.0	163
Other Modern	61.1	15.0	0.0	23.8	100.0	120
Traditional	45.9	8.1	1.7	44.2	100.0	2,739
Non-User	44.9	6.7	1.3	47.1	100.0	2,502

Table 9.8 B
Percent Distribution of Opinion of Degree of Risk to a Woman's Health From Using the Condom
by Selected Characteristics Among Men Aged 15–49
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk	Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	64.4	6.3	0.1	29.2	100.0	1,740
Strata						
Metro Tirana	75.4	3.6	0.3	20.7	100.0	718
Other Urban	72.4	5.6	0.0	22.0	100.0	547
Other Rural	55.4	7.8	0.0	36.9	100.0	475
Residence						
Urban	73.8	4.8	0.1	21.2	100.0	1,155
Rural	56.2	7.6	0.0	36.2	100.0	585
Age						
15–19	63.2	5.8	0.0	31.0	100.0	401
20–24	83.5	3.9	0.0	12.6	100.0	189
25–29	72.7	8.5	0.0	18.8	100.0	218
30–34	74.0	7.5	0.0	18.5	100.0	253
35–39	59.3	5.5	0.0	35.2	100.0	255
40–44	55.2	8.0	0.0	36.8	100.0	277
45–49	38.7	5.1	0.5	55.7	100.0	147
Marital Status						
Currently Married	57.5	7.5	0.1	34.9	100.0	1,023
Previously Married	**	**	**	**	**	14
Never Married	75.2	4.5	0.0	20.3	100.0	703
Living Children						
0	74.9	5.5	0.0	19.6	100.0	815
1	73.5	6.8	0.0	19.7	100.0	221
2	58.4	8.3	0.2	33.1	100.0	468
3+	40.5	5.2	0.0	54.3	100.0	236
Education Level						
Primary or Less	55.8	6.4	0.0	37.9	100.0	689
Secondary	70.0	6.6	0.1	23.4	100.0	825
Post-Secondary	84.2	4.5	0.3	11.0	100.0	226
Socioeconomic Index						
Low	52.4	6.1	0.0	41.5	100.0	638
Medium	71.4	7.0	0.1	21.5	100.0	814
High	90.0	4.3	0.3	5.5	100.0	288
Current Method of Contraception						
Modern	98.3	1.2	0.0	0.6	100.0	98
Traditional	58.3	7.0	0.1	34.6	100.0	804
Non-user	67.6	6.1	0.0	26.3	100.0	838

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 9.9
Percent Distribution of Opinion of Degree of Risk to a Woman's Health from Tubal Ligation
by Selected Characteristics Among Women Aged 15–44
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk	Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	12.7	26.8	7.6	52.9	100.0	5,697
Strata						
Metro Tirana	16.4	23.7	9.4	50.5	100.0	2,108
Other Urban	12.1	29.6	8.9	49.4	100.0	1,816
Other Rural	12.0	26.2	6.3	55.5	100.0	1,773
Residence						
Urban	13.6	27.7	9.1	49.6	100.0	3,572
Rural	12.0	26.2	6.4	55.3	100.0	2,125
Age						
15–19	6.2	15.0	3.0	75.8	100.0	1,094
20–24	12.5	20.7	7.6	59.2	100.0	936
25–29	13.6	31.2	9.3	45.9	100.0	946
30–34	15.0	32.3	9.5	43.2	100.0	1,067
35–39	14.6	32.2	9.8	43.4	100.0	958
40–44	16.9	34.5	7.8	40.7	100.0	696
Marital Status						
Currently Married	15.2	32.5	9.2	43.1	100.0	3,965
Previously Married	12.7	33.6	13.8	39.9	100.0	88
Never Married	7.7	15.2	4.0	73.1	100.0	1,644
Living Children						
0	8.7	16.3	4.7	70.3	100.0	1,943
1	14.1	30.3	9.4	46.2	100.0	828
2	15.1	36.1	9.8	39.0	100.0	1,840
3+	15.8	31.5	8.8	44.0	100.0	1,086
Education Level						
Primary or Less	11.2	24.3	6.7	57.8	100.0	2,519
Secondary	13.3	28.7	8.1	49.9	100.0	2,483
Post-Secondary	19.9	34.6	11.5	34.0	100.0	695
Socioeconomic Index						
Low	11.4	22.9	6.4	59.3	100.0	1,940
Medium	13.2	29.5	7.4	49.8	100.0	2,985
High	16.7	31.0	14.2	38.1	100.0	772
Current Method of Contraception						
Tubal Ligation	47.6	32.0	5.0	15.4	100.0	173
Condom	8.7	36.1	14.1	41.1	100.0	163
Other Modern	22.9	29.6	13.2	34.4	100.0	120
Traditional	13.9	32.9	9.5	43.7	100.0	2,739
Non-User	9.6	20.7	5.6	64.1	100.0	2,502

Table 9.10 A
Percent Distribution of Opinion of Degree of Risk to a Woman's Health From Abortion
by Selected Characteristics Among Women Aged 15–44
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk	Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	4.3	22.9	39.7	33.1	100.0	5,697
Strata						
Metro Tirana	5.7	23.0	46.2	25.1	100.0	2,108
Other Urban	4.8	24.6	40.9	29.8	100.0	1,816
Other Rural	3.6	22.0	37.2	37.2	100.0	1,773
Residence						
Urban	5.3	24.0	43.4	27.4	100.0	3,572
Rural	3.6	22.1	37.0	37.3	100.0	2,125
Age						
15–19	3.1	21.1	31.1	44.8	100.0	1,094
20–24	4.1	21.2	40.1	34.6	100.0	936
25–29	4.4	25.3	43.8	26.5	100.0	946
30–34	5.9	23.4	43.4	27.3	100.0	1,067
35–39	3.6	24.7	42.5	29.3	100.0	958
40–44	5.3	22.6	40.5	31.6	100.0	696
Marital Status						
Currently Married	5.0	24.0	42.4	28.6	100.0	3,965
Previously Married	4.0	19.4	44.7	31.9	100.0	88
Never Married	3.0	21.0	34.0	41.9	100.0	1,644
Living Children						
0	3.2	20.8	35.5	40.5	100.0	1,943
1	5.0	25.9	42.4	26.7	100.0	828
2	4.6	23.7	42.9	28.8	100.0	1,840
3+	5.4	23.8	41.5	29.3	100.0	1,086
Education Level						
Primary or Less	4.0	22.5	35.9	37.6	100.0	2,519
Secondary	4.9	22.9	42.3	29.9	100.0	2,483
Post-Secondary	3.8	25.8	53.0	17.5	100.0	695
Socioeconomic Index						
Low	4.5	21.5	35.4	38.5	100.0	1,940
Medium	3.9	24.0	41.8	30.3	100.0	2,985
High	5.6	23.2	49.5	21.6	100.0	772
Ever Had Abortion						
No	4.0	22.5	39.3	34.2	100.0	5,359
Yes	11.0	31.6	48.1	9.3	100.0	338

Table 9.10 B
Percent Distribution of Opinion of Degree of Risk to a Woman's Health from Abortion
by Selected Characteristics Among Men Aged 15–49
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Low Risk	Medium Risk	High Risk	Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	11.8	18.3	25.9	44.1	100.0	1,740
Strata						
Metro Tirana	8.6	20.2	26.1	45.1	100.0	718
Other Urban	12.6	18.1	29.6	39.7	100.0	547
Other Rural	12.5	17.7	23.5	46.3	100.0	475
Residence						
Urban	10.9	19.5	28.3	41.3	100.0	1,155
Rural	12.5	17.3	23.7	46.5	100.0	585
Age						
15–19	7.4	10.6	22.4	59.7	100.0	401
20–24	11.9	19.8	25.9	42.4	100.0	189
25–29	13.7	25.8	23.1	37.4	100.0	218
30–34	15.6	24.8	26.1	33.6	100.0	253
35–39	10.5	18.9	28.2	42.4	100.0	255
40–44	11.0	18.1	29.7	41.2	100.0	277
45–49	14.6	12.2	26.7	46.6	100.0	147
Marital Status						
Currently Married	12.5	19.2	25.9	42.4	100.0	1,023
Previously Married	**	**	**	**	**	14
Never Married	10.7	16.8	25.4	47.1	100.0	703
Living Children						
0	11.6	17.7	25.4	45.2	100.0	815
1	13.3	22.7	28.8	35.2	100.0	221
2	11.5	18.3	28.0	42.2	100.0	468
3+	11.5	16.8	22.0	49.6	100.0	236
Education Level						
Primary or Less	12.5	16.2	24.5	46.8	100.0	689
Secondary	10.4	19.3	26.7	43.6	100.0	825
Post-Secondary	14.5	24.7	29.1	31.7	100.0	226
Socioeconomic Index						
Low	12.3	17.8	20.9	49.0	100.0	638
Medium	10.3	17.9	29.6	42.2	100.0	814
High	15.3	22.0	32.9	29.8	100.0	288
Current Method of Contraception						
Modern	14.9	26.0	48.5	10.6	100.0	98
Traditional	14.5	21.4	22.4	41.8	100.0	804
Non-User	8.8	14.5	27.4	49.3	100.0	838

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

CHAPTER 10

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES

In most of the Communist countries of Eastern Europe, as mentioned previously, choices for contraception were limited and fertility control was achieved chiefly through abortion (David, 1992). Communist Albania, like Romania, was even more restrictive than other countries of Eastern Europe, prohibiting both contraception and abortion in favor of a pronatalist national policy. Post-Communist Albania has enacted new laws changing the situation. Modern contraception was legalized in 1988 and abortion in 1992 (Islami et al, 1999). Reproductive health education and services in Albania are still evolving.

The ALRHS02 incorporated questions about both men's and women's opinions about ideal family size, basic knowledge of fertility, attitudes about abortion and unintended pregnancy, and perceptions about gender roles and norms. Responses to these questions can help target and shape information, education, and communications programs intended to improve reproductive health knowledge among Albanians of child bearing age.

Ideal Family Size

Respondents were asked "What do you think is the ideal number of children for a young family in Albania?" The question is intended to illuminate a cultural or social norm, rather than a personal desire for a certain number of children. Response categories ranged from 0 to "5 or more", and included non-numeric responses such as "as many as God gives" and "as many as possible." The mean ideal number of children was calculated for women and men, excluding non-numeric responses (Table 10.1).

Among women, the mean ideal number of children for a young family in Albania was 2.6 children. The ideal was higher outside of metro Tirana, in rural areas, and among currently married women. Ideal number of children increased with age and number of living children, and decreased as educational level and socioeconomic status increased.

In general, men thought the ideal number of children was somewhat lower (2.4). The same demographic patterns held true for men, although the mean ideal reported by men was always lower except among men and women with three or more children (3.1 for both).

Knowledge of the Menstrual Cycle

Men and women's knowledge of the menstrual cycle was explored with two questions. The first asked whether there are certain days during a woman's cycle when she is more likely to become pregnant. Respondents that answered yes were then asked when those days occur: just before her period, during her period, right after her period, or halfway between periods.

Fewer than one in five Albanian women (18%) correctly identified the time halfway between periods as a woman's most fertile time (Table 10.2A). One-fourth incorrectly thought that the week after menses was the most likely time for a woman to become pregnant (26%). Nearly half responded that they did not know if a woman is more likely to become pregnant at any particular point in her cycle (46%). Correct knowledge was more prevalent in urban areas, among ever married women, and increased with level of education and socioeconomic status.

Albanian men knew even less about the menstrual cycle. Three quarters of men surveyed responded that either they did not know or that a woman is equally likely to become pregnant at any point in the menstrual cycle (Table 10.2B). Just 11% knew that the time halfway between periods is when a woman is most fertile.

Knowledge of the Fertility Effect of Breastfeeding

The RHS questionnaire included a question asking if breastfeeding increases, decreases, or has no effect on a woman's chance of getting pregnant. Nearly half of the women (47%) responded that they did not know whether there was any effect (Table 10.3A). Only one in five women knew that breastfeeding reduced a woman's fertility (20%). Women outside metro Tirana, rural women, women of lower education and socioeconomic status were more likely to respond that they did not know and were less likely to correctly specify that breastfeeding lowers the chance of pregnancy. Unmarried women, women aged 15–19, or without children were most likely to have no knowledge of the effect of breastfeeding on fertility and least likely to know that pregnancy is less likely when a woman is breastfeeding.

Two-thirds of Albanian men (66%) surveyed reported not knowing if breastfeeding affected a woman's chance of becoming pregnant and approximately 20% knew that it lowers the chance (Table 10.3B). As with the women, knowledge was greater among urban men, and much lower among never married men, young men, men with less than complete secondary education, low socioeconomic status, and with no children.

Attitudes Toward Abortion

To explore whether Albanians, in the abstract, consider abortion to be an option for limiting fertility, the questionnaire asks whether respondents believe that a woman always has the right to decide about her pregnancy, including whether or not to have an abortion. Respondents who do not agree that abortion is always a woman's decision answer a question about whether abortion is acceptable under certain circumstances. Table 10.4A displays the percent distribution of surveyed women who agree that abortion is always a woman's decision, that abortion is acceptable under at least one of six selected circumstances, or never acceptable.

Nearly three quarters of Albanian women (72%) think that a woman always has the right to make decisions about her own pregnancy, including whether to have an abortion. Almost all other women believe that abortion is acceptable under some circumstances (26%). The opinion that abortion is a woman's decision does not vary much by demographic characteristics, although it is most common among women with postsecondary education (78%) and least prevalent among women of low socioeconomic status (69%).

Fewer Albanian men report that abortion is always a woman's personal decision (53%), but because most others believe it is acceptable in certain circumstances, the proportion that believe abortion is never acceptable is about equal to that of women (1%) (Table 10.4B). Acceptance of abortion varied among Albanian men by strata, residence and age; it was most common among men in urban areas other than Tirana (61%) and least likely among men aged 45–49 (44%). Acceptance of a woman's right

to decide about her pregnancy increased somewhat with socioeconomic status (52% to 59%).

Respondents who did not think that a pregnant woman always has the right to decide about abortion were asked about the acceptability of abortion under specific circumstances: danger to a woman's life, danger to a woman's health, deformity of the fetus, pregnancy resulting from rape, pregnancy outside of marriage, and inability to support a/another child. Among both men and women, the selected circumstances can be grouped into three levels of acceptance.

Among women, being unmarried or unable to afford a child were the least acceptable reasons for abortion (38% and 22% respectively) (Table 10.5). Lack of money for a child was also found to be the situation with the greatest definitively negative response of abortion as opposed to "depends" or "don't know" (59%). The second level of acceptance among women was for situations in which the pregnancy was the result of a rape or it posed a danger to a woman's health (53% and 59%, respectively). About one in five respondents (19%) to these questions thought that abortion was not appropriate in these circumstances. The highest level of acceptance among women was for pregnancies in which the fetus had some sort of deformity (70%) or which threatened a woman's life (80%). One in ten women felt a woman must carry a pregnancy to term even if it might end her life and 19% felt she should do so even if the fetus was physically deformed.

Acceptance of abortion under specific circumstances shows some patterns when examined by women's characteristics (Table 10.6A). Women who are aged 15 – 19, never married, have no children, of lower

socioeconomic status, live in rural areas, or who have less education are in general less likely to accept abortion in any of the situations presented. However, in the first three cases shown, from one-half to three-quarters of these women accepted abortion in these circumstances. With regard to urban/rural residence and socioeconomic status, the proportion was inverted when the circumstance in question was a pregnancy in a woman without a husband; in that case rural women were more likely to agree with abortion (42% vs. 32%) as were women in the lowest socioeconomic level (42% vs. 34% and 35%).

Albanian men were similar in their acceptance of abortion under the circumstances shown (Table 10.5). However, compared with female respondents, they were less likely to accept abortion as an option when a family can not afford a child or when a woman is unmarried, and most likely to disapprove outright in those circumstances. Albanian men also showed less acceptance when a fetus is malformed. Men placed the greatest value on a woman's health and life, agreeing that abortion was acceptable when her health or life were at risk (74% and 87%, respectively).

In looking at the situational acceptance of abortion among men by selected characteristics, one can see that, in general, approval was higher among men living in urban areas, currently married men, men with secondary complete education, and men with high socioeconomic status (Table 10.6B). Men who live outside of Tirana were less likely to accept abortion when a woman is unmarried or the family cannot support the child once it is born.

While most believe that abortion is a woman's personal decision, in the event of an unintended pregnancy, a large majority of

Albanian women tend to think that a woman should have the baby and raise it herself (71%) and a significant minority think that she should have an abortion (21%) (Table 10.7A). Only 2% think a woman should have her baby adopted. Women most likely to think a woman should give birth and keep the baby are those in rural areas. “Keep the baby” decreases with higher levels of education and socioeconomic status.

Albanian men are much less likely to say that a woman should have and keep an unwanted baby (40%) (Table 10.7B). Adoption as a choice of action is generally more favored by men than women (10% vs. 2%). Men living in Tirana and in other urban areas, as well as men with postsecondary education and of high socioeconomic status, were most likely to think a woman should have an abortion. Men at the extremes of the reproductive ages were least likely to suggest a woman abort an unwanted pregnancy (19%). Reporting both that a woman should have an abortion and that she should have her baby adopted increased with education level. Increased socioeconomic status was associated with increased approval of abortion for an unwanted pregnancy. Older men aged 45 – 49 were the most likely to expect a woman to give birth and to raise the child (58%).

Attitudes and Perceptions about Gender Norms

Both male and female respondents were asked whether they agreed with several statements reflecting gender norms and roles. Responses to these statements provide a limited snapshot of the cultural expectations regarding men and women and the roles they play in society as perceived by the respondents.

The vast majority of surveyed women agreed that housework is a woman’s main job (87%) but that a husband should help

with household chores if his wife works (94%) (Table 10.8). At least three quarters of women agree that a woman should be a virgin at her marriage, that women need their husbands’ permission to work outside the home, and that every person should marry. If a woman works, 70% of women believe she should give the money she earns to her husband, while two-thirds (66%) of women know a woman can become pregnant the first time she has sex. The least commonly held norms were that childcare is a woman’s job (52%) and that men should have the final say in the family (42%). Agreement with all the statements, except those about a husband’s help around the house and possible pregnancy at first sex, was greater among rural women and women with less education. With the exception of “husband helping with chores,” agreement was inversely related to education attainment.

Generally, women in metropolitan Tirana are least likely to agree with these gender-related statements and women in rural areas outside of Tirana are most likely to agree (Table 10.9A). Agreement tends to increase with age and with number of living children. On the whole, as socioeconomic status and level of education increase, agreement decreases. Currently married women are more likely to accept the norms and Orthodox Christian women are least likely to accept the norms.

In general, men most strongly agree that everyone should get married, that a woman’s main job is housework, and that if a woman works her husband should help around the house (84% – 85%) (Table 10.8). More than half of Albanian men also agree that a woman needs her husband’s permission to work; that, if she works, all of her money should go to her husband; that a woman should be a virgin until she marries, and that a woman can get pregnant the first time she

has sex (64% – 71 %). Slightly more than a third of Albanian men believe that childcare is a woman's job (36%) and that men have the final say in family matter (37%). As seen with the women, with the exception of a husband's responsibility to help with chores when his wife works and the belief that a woman can become pregnant at first sex, agreement with all statements was higher among rural men and decreased with higher educational attainment.

Belief that men should help working wives with household chores was nearly unaffected by men's demographic characteristics as was agreement that a woman can become pregnant the first time she has sex, with the exception of education noted above and the much lower agreement among men without any living children (Table 10.9B). Men from rural areas outside of metro Tirana were most likely to agree with nearly all the other gender norms. For the most part, more traditional norms were more popular with older men and agreement increased with number of living children. Marital status had no impact on whether men felt husbands should help their wives with chores, or have the final say in the family,

or that child care is a woman's job. For all other statements, higher proportions of currently married men agreed. Agreement with all the statements of gender norms decreased with socioeconomic status and level of education, although there was very little difference for beliefs that a woman can become pregnant at first sex or that a husband should help with household chores when his wife works. Muslim and Catholic men were very close in agreement, while Orthodox Christian men were, for the most part, less likely to agree with the selected gender norms. Otherwise, Orthodox men were more likely to agree that a woman should give her salary to her husband. Religion had no effect on attitudes toward helping with household chores.

When asked who should decide how many children a couple should have, most women reported that both the man and the woman should decide (96%) with little variation by urban/rural residence or education (Table 10.10). A majority of men also felt that the decision should be made jointly (89%), and that opinion increased with level of education (85% to 97%).

Table 10.1
Mean Ideal Number of Children for a Young Family in Albania
by Selected Characteristics Among Women Aged 15–44 and Men Aged 15–49
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Women 15–44		Men 15–49	
	Mean Ideal Number of Children	No. of Cases*	Mean Ideal Number of Children	No. of Cases*
Total	2.6	5,459	2.4	1,527
Strata				
Metro Tirana	2.4	2,046	2.3	661
Other Urban	2.6	1,750	2.3	472
Other Rural	2.7	1,663	2.5	394
Residence				
Urban	2.5	3,462	2.2	1,033
Rural	2.7	1,997	2.5	494
Age Group				
15–19	2.4	1,042	2.3	336
20–24	2.5	907	2.2	166
25–29	2.5	914	2.2	180
30–34	2.7	1,025	2.3	232
35–39	2.7	904	2.4	223
40–44	2.9	667	2.5	257
45–49	N/A	N/A	2.8	133
Marital Status				
Currently Married	2.7	3,807	2.5	924
Previously Married	2.4	82	**	12
Never Married	2.4	1,570	2.3	591
Number of Living Children				
0	2.4	1,851	2.2	686
1	2.4	805	2.1	199
2	2.5	1,792	2.3	445
3 or More	3.1	1,011	3.1	197
Educational Level				
Primary or Less	2.7	2,347	2.5	568
Secondary	2.5	2,423	2.3	741
Post-Secondary	2.3	689	2.2	218
Socioeconomic Status				
Low	2.7	1,789	2.5	538
Middle	2.6	2,909	2.3	727
High	2.4	761	2.2	262

*Excludes non-numeric responses: 4% of female and 12% of male respondents.

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 10.2 A
Percent Distribution of Women's Opinion
on the Most Likely Time in the Menstrual Cycle for a Woman to Become Pregnant
by Selected Characteristics Among Women 15–44
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Just Before Menses Begins	During Menses	Just After Menses Ends	Halfway Between Menses	Anytime	Do Not Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	3.4	1.6	25.6	17.7	5.7	46.0	100.0	5,697
Strata								
Metro Tirana	4.3	1.8	26.4	22.7	7.6	37.2	100.0	2,108
Other urban	3.4	1.4	29.3	22.4	4.7	38.8	100.0	1,816
Other rural	3.1	1.6	23.3	13.8	5.7	52.5	100.0	1,773
Residence								
Urban	3.9	1.6	28.7	23.2	5.8	36.8	100.0	3,572
Rural	3.0	1.6	23.2	13.6	5.6	53.0	100.0	2,125
Age Group								
15–19	2.5	0.8	10.3	11.2	3.3	71.9	100.0	1,094
20–24	2.9	0.9	20.5	19.1	5.4	51.2	100.0	936
25–29	2.3	1.5	35.7	15.4	7.2	37.9	100.0	946
30–34	4.1	1.9	29.3	22.2	5.9	36.6	100.0	1,067
35–39	3.6	2.0	33.7	18.7	5.9	36.2	100.0	958
40–44	5.3	2.8	29.9	22.2	7.4	32.3	100.0	696
Marital Status								
Currently Married	4.0	1.8	33.5	19.6	6.2	34.9	100.0	3,965
Previously Married	2.5	3.5	36.5	19.6	9.7	28.2	100.0	88
Never Married	2.2	1.1	9.2	13.9	4.3	69.2	100.0	1,644
Number of Living Children								
0	2.3	1.2	11.6	15.1	4.4	65.4	100.0	1,943
1	4.0	1.3	37.6	19.1	5.2	32.9	100.0	828
2	3.0	1.9	33.1	22.3	6.9	32.8	100.0	1,840
3 or more	5.3	2.0	33.3	15.9	6.6	36.9	100.0	1,086
Educational Level								
Primary or Less	3.0	1.7	23.1	11.3	6.4	54.5	100.0	2,519
Secondary	3.8	1.5	28.7	21.4	4.7	39.9	100.0	2,483
Postsecondary	3.6	1.1	27.7	43.4	5.6	18.6	100.0	695
Socioeconomic Status								
Low	2.9	1.6	23.3	11.4	6.0	54.8	100.0	1,940
Middle	3.7	1.6	26.3	21.9	5.2	41.2	100.0	2,985
High	3.8	1.1	33.0	25.2	6.8	30.1	100.0	772

Table 10.2 B
Percent Distribution of Men's Opinion on the Most Likely Time
In the Menstrual Cycle for a Woman to Become Pregnant
by Selected Characteristics Among Men Aged 15–49
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Just Before Menses Begins	During Menses	Right After Menses Ends	Halfway Between Menses	Anytime	Do Not Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	4.3	1.9	9.3	10.5	14.9	59.0	100.0	1,740
Strata								
Metro Tirana	3.9	2.0	10.9	13.2	20.2	49.9	100.0	718
Other urban	4.5	3.2	9.9	14.6	11.2	56.7	100.0	547
Other rural	4.4	1.1	8.4	7.0	15.0	64.0	100.0	475
Residence								
Urban	4.3	2.8	10.4	14.3	14.5	53.7	100.0	1,155
Rural	4.3	1.1	8.4	7.2	15.2	63.7	100.0	585
Age Group								
15–19	4.0	0.6	3.6	3.4	6.3	82.1	100.0	401
20–24	4.5	1.5	10.6	12.0	6.5	65.0	100.0	189
25–29	6.6	2.5	11.6	13.1	16.4	49.8	100.0	218
30–34	5.7	3.3	15.6	13.1	20.7	41.5	100.0	253
35–39	3.4	3.9	10.1	10.6	25.3	46.7	100.0	255
40–44	4.6	1.3	7.5	14.4	15.5	56.6	100.0	277
45–49	1.0	0.5	8.6	9.2	17.3	63.4	100.0	147
Marital Status								
Currently Married	4.4	2.3	10.7	11.2	20.3	51.2	100.0	1,023
Previously Married	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	14
Never Married	4.3	1.4	7.1	9.5	6.7	71.1	100.0	703
Number of Living Children								
0	4.3	1.2	8.6	10.1	8.4	67.4	100.0	815
1	8.0	4.2	13.5	13.0	21.1	40.1	100.0	221
2	3.0	3.3	10.3	12.8	21.4	49.3	100.0	468
3 or more	3.8	0.3	7.2	6.9	18.2	63.6	100.0	236
Educational Level								
Primary or Less	2.8	1.5	8.2	5.4	14.7	67.4	100.0	689
Secondary	6.3	1.3	10.3	11.9	14.7	55.5	100.0	825
Postsecondary	3.4	7.1	10.8	31.1	16.9	30.8	100.0	226
Socioeconomic Status								
Low	2.8	1.8	6.4	5.1	17.0	66.9	100.0	638
Middle	5.2	1.3	11.8	13.0	13.0	55.7	100.0	814
High	7.8	4.8	12.5	24.5	13.0	37.5	100.0	288

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 10.3 A
Percent Distribution of Women's Opinion on the Likelihood of Pregnancy While Breastfeeding
by Selected Characteristics Among Women Aged 15–44
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania 2002

Characteristic	Higher Risk	Lower Risk	Same Risk	Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	9.3	20.3	23.1	47.3	100.0	5,697
Strata						
Metro Tirana	9.4	23.8	23.0	43.7	100.0	2,108
Other urban	10.0	23.5	23.5	43.0	100.0	1,816
Other rural	8.9	17.6	22.8	50.6	100.0	1,773
Residence						
Urban	9.7	24.1	23.6	42.6	100.0	3,572
Rural	9.0	17.5	22.7	50.7	100.0	2,125
Age Group						
15–19	4.8	7.4	7.6	80.2	100.0	1,094
20–24	6.6	16.6	18.3	58.5	100.0	936
25–29	10.2	24.6	31.0	34.1	100.0	946
30–34	11.1	27.0	29.6	32.3	100.0	1,067
35–39	13.0	23.5	31.1	32.4	100.0	958
40–44	12.0	28.1	26.7	33.1	100.0	696
Marital Status						
Currently Married	11.6	25.8	29.5	33.1	100.0	3,965
Previously Married	11.3	38.5	27.9	22.4	100.0	88
Never Married	4.7	8.4	10.1	76.9	100.0	1,644
Number of Living Children						
0	4.9	10.2	10.3	74.6	100.0	1,943
1	10.0	24.8	30.9	34.4	100.0	828
2	12.0	29.8	30.0	28.3	100.0	1,840
3 or more	13.2	23.6	31.9	31.4	100.0	1,086
Educational Level						
Primary or Less	9.4	17.9	21.3	51.4	100.0	2,519
Secondary	9.4	22.0	24.4	44.2	100.0	2,483
Postsecondary	8.5	28.7	28.9	33.9	100.0	695
Socioeconomic Status						
Low	9.5	18.3	22.9	49.4	100.0	1,940
Middle	9.1	21.4	22.7	46.8	100.0	2,985
High	10.1	24.5	26.6	38.9	100.0	772

Table 10.3 B
Percent Distribution of Men's Opinion on the Likelihood of Pregnancy While Breastfeeding
by Selected Characteristics Among Men Aged 15–44
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania 2002

Characteristic	Higher Risk	Lower Risk	Same Risk	Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	1.1	19.3	13.8	65.8	100.0	1,740
Strata						
Metro Tirana	2.2	20.0	12.8	64.9	100.0	718
Other urban	1.3	22.4	18.9	57.4	100.0	547
Other rural	0.6	17.1	11.2	71.1	100.0	475
Residence						
Urban	1.7	21.8	16.3	60.2	100.0	1,155
Rural	0.6	17.1	11.7	70.7	100.0	585
Age Group						
15–19	0.4	6.1	7.4	86.1	100.0	401
20–24	1.1	14.7	11.5	72.8	100.0	189
25–29	0.4	23.5	16.0	60.2	100.0	218
30–34	2.1	26.0	20.7	51.3	100.0	253
35–39	1.1	21.6	18.7	58.6	100.0	255
40–44	2.3	26.2	12.4	59.2	100.0	277
45–49	0.6	22.6	12.3	64.5	100.0	147
Marital Status						
Currently Married	1.4	24.6	16.6	57.4	100.0	1,023
Previously Married	**	**	**	**	**	14
Never Married	0.7	11.1	9.5	78.7	100.0	703
Number of Living Children						
0	0.7	11.5	11.0	76.8	100.0	815
1	1.5	32.7	18.7	47.1	100.0	221
2	1.9	25.7	17.9	54.5	100.0	468
3 or more	0.9	21.5	12.0	65.6	100.0	236
Educational Level						
Primary or Less	0.7	15.0	11.7	72.6	100.0	689
Secondary	1.6	19.9	16.2	62.2	100.0	825
Postsecondary	1.1	38.9	13.5	46.6	100.0	226
Socioeconomic Status						
Low	0.8	15.7	12.7	70.7	100.0	638
Middle	1.1	20.9	13.4	64.6	100.0	814
High	2.4	28.6	20.0	49.0	100.0	288

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 10.4 A
Percentage Distribution of Women's Agreement that
Abortion Is a Woman's Personal Decision
by Selected Characteristics Among Women Aged 15–44
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Always	Under Certain Circumstances	Never	Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	72.4	26.2	0.9	0.6	100.0	5,697
Strata						
Metro Tirana	73.1	25.6	0.9	0.3	100.0	2,108
Other urban	74.4	24.7	0.7	0.2	100.0	1,816
Other rural	71.1	27.2	0.9	0.8	100.0	1,773
Residence						
Urban	74.3	24.8	0.7	0.2	100.0	3,572
Rural	70.9	27.3	1.0	0.8	100.0	2,125
Age						
15–19	70.8	26.6	0.6	1.9	100.0	1,094
20–24	72.4	26.7	0.7	0.2	100.0	936
25–29	74.0	24.3	1.4	0.3	100.0	946
30–34	73.6	25.6	0.6	0.2	100.0	1,067
35–39	72.0	27.5	0.5	0.0	100.0	958
40–44	72.1	26.2	1.3	0.4	100.0	696
Marital Status						
Currently Married	72.8	26.2	0.7	0.3	100.0	3,965
Previously Married	77.0	23.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	88
Never Married	71.2	26.4	1.3	1.1	100.0	1,644
Number of Living Children						
0	71.6	26.3	1.2	1.0	100.0	1,943
1	72.9	26.2	0.4	0.5	100.0	828
2	72.7	25.9	1.1	0.3	100.0	1,840
3 or more	73.1	26.4	0.3	0.2	100.0	1,086
Educational Level						
Primary or Less	71.5	26.6	1.0	0.9	100.0	2,519
Secondary	72.5	26.7	0.6	0.1	100.0	2,483
Postsecondary	77.8	21.1	1.1	0.0	100.0	695
Socioeconomic Status						
Low	69.3	28.5	1.0	1.3	100.0	1,940
Middle	74.6	24.5	0.9	0.1	100.0	2,985
High	75.2	24.6	0.2	0.0	100.0	772

Table 10.4 B
Percentage Distribution of Men's Agreement that
Abortion Is a Woman's Personal Decision
by Selected Characteristics Among Men Aged 15–49
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Always	Under Certain Circumstances	Never	Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Total	52.9	44.9	1.0	1.2	100.0	1,740
Strata						
Metro Tirana	48.6	47.5	0.8	3.0	100.0	718
Other urban	61.1	38.2	0.7	0.0	100.0	547
Other rural	49.8	48.0	1.1	1.2	100.0	475
Residence						
Urban	56.8	41.3	0.7	1.2	100.0	1,155
Rural	49.5	48.1	1.2	1.2	100.0	585
Age						
15–19	54.0	41.2	0.6	4.2	100.0	401
20–24	52.5	46.6	0.0	0.8	100.0	189
25–29	53.3	45.9	0.9	0.0	100.0	218
30–34	56.1	43.2	0.3	0.3	100.0	253
35–39	50.3	48.1	1.3	0.3	100.0	255
40–44	58.8	39.5	1.1	0.6	100.0	277
45–49	43.6	52.8	2.9	0.8	100.0	147
Marital Status						
Currently Married	52.7	45.5	1.3	0.4	100.0	1,023
Previously Married	**	**	**	**	**	14
Never Married	53.3	44.0	0.4	2.3	100.0	703
Number of Living Children						
0	53.0	44.3	0.7	2.0	100.0	815
1	51.0	47.0	1.4	0.6	100.0	221
2	55.5	42.9	1.0	0.6	100.0	468
3 or more	50.5	48.0	1.3	0.2	100.0	236
Educational Level						
Primary or Less	50.4	46.5	1.5	1.6	100.0	689
Secondary	55.1	43.7	0.5	0.7	100.0	825
Postsecondary	56.4	42.4	0.3	0.9	100.0	226
Socioeconomic Status						
Low	51.9	45.4	1.5	1.2	100.0	638
Middle	52.7	45.5	0.6	1.3	100.0	814
High	58.5	40.8	0.1	0.6	100.0	288

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 10.5
Percent Distribution of Opinion Regarding Abortion Under Selected Circumstances
by Selected Characteristics Among Women and Men of Reproductive Age
Who Do Not Believe That Abortion Is Always a Woman's Personal Decision
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

	Women Aged 15–44					
	Acceptability of Abortion					
Circumstances	Yes	No	Depends	Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Woman's Life is Endangered	80.4	9.5	5.9	4.2	100.0	1,492
Fetus is Malformed	70.1	18.6	5.0	6.4	100.0	1,492
Woman's Health is Endangered	59.1	20.1	15.1	5.6	100.0	1,492
Pregnancy is Result of Rape	53.1	20.2	16.9	9.8	100.0	1,492
Woman is Unmarried	37.9	31.6	21.1	9.4	100.0	1,492
Family Cannot Afford the Child	21.9	58.6	11.8	7.6	100.0	1,492
	Men Aged 15–49					
	Acceptability of Abortion					
Circumstances	Yes	No	Depends	Don't Know	Total	No. of Cases
Woman's Life is Endangered	86.5	4.0	6.4	3.2	100.0	818
Woman's Health is Endangered	73.7	9.6	11.7	5.0	100.0	818
Pregnancy is Result of Rape	59.0	11.6	20.2	9.2	100.0	818
Fetus is Malformed	55.5	14.6	16.0	14.0	100.0	818
Woman is Unmarried	17.9	46.1	22.5	13.5	100.0	818
Family Cannot Afford the Child	13.9	45.4	22.6	18.0	100.0	818

Table 10.6 A
Percentage Who Agree with the Acceptability of Abortion Under Selected Circumstances
by Selected Characteristics Among Women Aged 15–44
Who Do Not Believe That Abortion is Always a Woman's Personal Decision
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Circumstances						No. of Cases
	Woman's Life in Danger	Fetus Deformed	Woman's Health in Danger	Pregnancy Resulted From Rape	Woman Unmarried	Cannot Afford Child	
Total	80.4	70.1	59.1	53.1	37.9	21.9	1,492
Strata							
Metro Tirana	82.7	69.9	66.7	47.2	25.5	20.9	557
Other urban	83.1	73.3	59.0	54.5	35.9	27.7	444
Other rural	78.4	68.6	57.1	54.0	42.3	19.4	491
Residence							
Urban	83.6	72.4	62.9	52.3	31.7	25.8	886
Rural	78.2	68.6	56.6	53.6	42.0	19.3	606
Age							
15–19	74.8	56.4	50.8	46.8	33.5	13.8	290
20–24	81.0	69.2	61.9	55.6	44.0	20.9	244
25–29	76.9	73.7	61.9	53.7	39.5	21.5	238
30–34	87.8	74.5	63.0	56.5	40.3	28.2	284
35–39	85.9	79.7	63.5	54.1	35.7	28.6	253
40–44	78.1	73.2	57.2	54.6	36.2	22.1	183
Marital Status							
Currently Married	83.8	75.0	62.1	55.3	39.4	24.6	1,049
Previously Married	**	**	**	**	**	**	19
Never Married	74.1	61.1	52.7	48.6	34.5	16.2	424
Number of Living Children							
0	74.8	62.0	54.0	48.7	35.1	16.5	500
1	85.7	77.4	63.7	59.8	43.8	22.0	211
2	80.9	75.9	64.2	54.2	35.8	26.6	493
3 or more	86.7	73.1	59.5	55.7	42.3	25.7	288
Educational Level							
Primary or Less	76.0	66.1	56.5	52.4	41.8	18.6	700
Secondary	85.4	75.4	55.2	60.8	32.9	26.2	641
Postsecondary	88.8	72.9	71.3	47.0	33.9	25.2	151
Socioeconomic Status							
Low	76.4	65.0	55.3	50.6	42.4	19.9	576
Middle	82.9	74.7	61.7	55.0	33.9	23.6	746
High	90.4	74.1	67.5	57.3	34.5	23.7	170

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 10.6 B
Percentage Who Agree with the Acceptability of Abortion Under Selected Circumstances
by Selected Characteristics Among Men Aged 15–49 Who Do Not Believe
That Abortion Is Always a Woman's Personal Decision
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Circumstances						No. of Cases
	Woman's Life in Danger	Woman's Health in Danger	Pregnancy Resulted From Rape	Fetus Deformed	Woman Unmarried	Cannot Afford Child	
Total	86.5	73.7	59.0	55.5	17.9	13.9	818
Strata							
Metro Tirana	86.3	75.3	60.3	60.3	28.0	19.2	365
Other urban	88.2	77.4	65.2	56.0	13.4	12.8	209
Other rural	85.8	71.3	55.6	53.3	16.0	12.4	244
Residence							
Urban	87.7	76.5	62.8	58.4	19.0	15.5	516
Rural	85.6	71.6	56.1	53.3	17.1	12.8	302
Age							
15–19	76.5	68.5	58.3	42.0	17.4	3.8	187
20–24	88.4	74.8	57.9	56.3	12.9	14.9	89
25–29	85.3	81.3	57.1	55.1	16.7	12.5	108
30–34	90.4	74.7	59.6	60.4	19.2	19.1	112
35–39	92.4	81.0	67.7	60.5	20.0	17.1	124
40–44	88.7	78.6	61.1	69.0	21.7	23.0	126
45–49	87.3	58.6	51.0	50.9	18.5	11.4	72
Marital Status							
Currently Married	88.6	73.5	59.6	57.5	19.9	17.4	486
Previously Married	**	**	**	**	**	**	7
Never Married	83.1	73.9	57.7	51.9	15.0	8.7	325
Number of Living Children							
0	84.2	75.0	58.3	53.0	16.5	9.6	382
1	82.9	72.6	61.6	48.4	17.5	10.9	115
2	90.1	75.4	62.7	60.0	19.0	20.1	214
3 or more	89.9	69.1	54.3	60.1	20.4	18.4	107
Educational Level							
Primary or Less	83.9	70.5	56.2	48.2	19.5	12.1	339
Secondary	88.9	76.8	63.6	62.2	16.4	14.9	376
Postsecondary	91.1	77.9	53.7	66.9	15.5	20.0	103
Socioeconomic Status							
Low	83.5	69.9	57.4	51.3	16.5	14.0	299
Middle	88.6	75.8	58.7	56.0	17.5	12.8	388
High	92.8	83.9	68.6	74.6	27.3	18.8	131

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 10.7 A
Percent Distribution of Women's Opinion on What a Woman Should Do If a
Pregnancy is Unwanted by Selected Characteristics Among Women Aged 15–44
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	What Should A Woman Do If A Pregnancy is Unwanted				Total	No. of Cases
	Give Birth and Keep the Baby	Have an Abortion	Give Birth and Have Baby Adopted	Don't Know		
Total	70.8	20.5	2.3	6.4	100.0	5,697
Strata						
Metro Tirana	65.7	24.4	3.0	6.9	100.0	2,108
Other urban	66.9	24.0	2.6	6.5	100.0	1,816
Other rural	74.5	17.5	1.9	6.1	100.0	1,773
Residence						
Urban	65.9	24.7	2.9	6.6	100.0	3,572
Rural	74.6	17.4	1.8	6.2	100.0	2,125
Age						
15–19	69.9	17.8	3.4	8.9	100.0	1,094
20–24	72.8	18.1	2.7	6.4	100.0	936
25–29	70.0	22.2	2.4	5.4	100.0	946
30–34	69.2	24.3	1.3	5.1	100.0	1,067
35–39	71.2	21.5	1.6	5.7	100.0	958
40–44	72.2	20.3	1.8	5.6	100.0	696
Marital Status						
Currently Married	71.4	21.9	1.6	5.0	100.0	3,965
Previously Married	67.6	25.1	0.6	6.7	100.0	88
Never Married	69.9	17.5	3.7	8.9	100.0	1,644
Number of Living Children						
0	71.0	17.4	3.4	8.2	100.0	1,943
1	69.6	24.7	1.8	3.9	100.0	828
2	70.3	21.6	1.6	6.6	100.0	1,840
3 or more	72.0	22.2	1.5	4.3	100.0	1,086
Educational Level						
Primary or Less	73.8	18.1	1.5	6.6	100.0	2,519
Secondary	68.0	22.6	2.9	6.2	100.0	2,483
Postsecondary	64.4	26.1	4.3	5.2	100.0	695
Socioeconomic Status						
Low	73.4	17.1	2.0	7.5	100.0	1,940
Middle	70.7	21.4	2.4	5.6	100.0	2,985
High	58.6	32.9	3.4	5.1	100.0	772

Table 10.7 B
Percent Distribution of Men's Opinion on What a Woman Should Do If a
Pregnancy is Unwanted by Selected Characteristics Among Men Aged 15–49
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	What Should A Woman Do If A Pregnancy is Unwanted				Total	No. of Cases
	Give Birth and Keep the Baby	Have an Abortion	Give Birth and Have Baby Adopted	Don't Know		
Total	40.2	23.4	9.6	26.8	100.0	1,740
Strata						
Metro Tirana	37.7	29.0	9.5	23.7	100.0	718
Other urban	39.1	28.7	11.1	21.2	100.0	547
Other rural	41.8	18.1	8.7	31.3	100.0	475
Residence						
Urban	38.6	29.0	10.6	21.8	100.0	1,155
Rural	41.6	18.6	8.8	31.1	100.0	585
Age						
15–19	32.3	19.0	10.5	38.1	100.0	401
20–24	30.8	28.0	9.5	31.8	100.0	189
25–29	41.6	21.6	9.5	27.3	100.0	218
30–34	38.9	29.2	7.4	24.5	100.0	253
35–39	41.4	21.4	13.2	24.0	100.0	255
40–44	44.3	26.4	11.5	17.8	100.0	277
45–49	58.2	19.0	4.3	18.6	100.0	147
Marital Status						
Currently Married	45.4	22.5	9.5	22.6	100.0	1,023
Previously Married	**	**	**	**	**	14
Never Married	31.9	25.0	9.9	33.2	100.0	703
Number of Living Children						
0	34.7	24.1	9.6	31.6	100.0	815
1	45.9	21.0	6.2	26.9	100.0	221
2	42.4	25.3	11.1	21.2	100.0	468
3 or more	47.1	20.8	9.8	22.3	100.0	236
Educational Level						
Primary or Less	41.8	20.2	6.0	32.0	100.0	689
Secondary	39.1	24.7	12.4	23.8	100.0	825
Postsecondary	36.5	35.1	15.4	13.1	100.0	226
Socioeconomic Status						
Low	43.2	20.1	7.1	29.5	100.0	638
Middle	37.5	24.4	12.4	25.7	100.0	814
High	37.4	34.4	9.3	18.9	100.0	288

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 10.8
Percentage Who Agree with Statements on Gender Norms
by Residence and Education
Among Women Aged 15–44 and Men Aged 15–49
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania 2002

Statements	Women Aged 15–44					
	Total	Residence		Education Level		
		Urban	Rural	Primary	Secondary	Post Secondary
Husband Should Help with Chores if Wife Works	93.6	93.2	93.9	93.3	94.2	93.0
Main Job of Woman is Housework	86.6	79.5	91.9	93.2	83.5	57.4
Every Individual Should Get Married	78.9	70.5	85.1	85.5	74.9	53.3
A Married Woman Needs Husband's Permission to Work	75.2	62.3	84.8	86.7	67.8	33.0
A Woman Should Be A Virgin When She Marries	74.7	57.6	87.6	87.2	66.2	31.9
If Woman Works, She Should Give Money to Husband	69.9	57.2	79.5	82.5	59.7	34.4
A Woman Can Get Pregnant The First Time She Has Sex	65.5	65.7	65.4	64.5	66.6	67.0
Child Care Is A Woman's Job	52.3	46.4	56.7	62.4	44.0	23.6
Men Have Final Say in Family Matters	41.7	30.5	50.0	55.4	29.0	9.7
Number of Cases	5,697	3,572	2,125	2,519	2,483	695

Statements	Men Aged 15–49					
	Total	Residence		Education Level		
		Urban	Rural	Primary	Secondary	Post Secondary
Husband Should Help with Chores if Wife Works	85.2	85.2	85.2	83.6	85.5	92.5
Main Job of Woman is Housework	84.7	79.0	89.7	90.0	83.3	63.4
Every Individual Should Get Married	84.2	77.5	90.0	88.0	83.1	68.1
A Woman Can Get Pregnant The First Time She Has Sex	70.5	72.9	68.5	69.2	70.0	80.2
A Woman Should Be A Virgin When She Marries	67.9	54.2	79.8	78.7	63.6	30.3
If Woman Works, She Should Give Money to Husband	64.1	58.0	69.5	73.1	59.7	37.1
A Married Woman Needs Husband's Permission to Work	64.1	56.8	70.5	71.8	60.2	42.0
Men Have Final Say in Family Matters	37.0	30.3	42.7	50.0	26.9	14.5
Child Care Is A Woman's Job	35.9	32.4	39.0	44.5	30.1	17.5
Number of Cases	1,740	1,155	585	689	825	226

Table 10.9 A
Percentage Who Agree with Statements on Gender Norms
by Selected Characteristics Among Women Aged 15–44
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Husband Should Help With Chores	Main Job of Woman is Housework	All People Should Marry	Need Husband's Permission To Work	Woman Should be Virgin at Marriage	If Woman Works, All Money to Husband	Can Get Pregnant at First Sex	Child Care is a Woman's Job	Men Have Final Say in Family	No. of Cases
Total	93.6	86.6	78.9	75.2	74.7	69.9	65.5	52.3	41.7	5,697
Strata										
Metro Tirana	90.3	77.0	66.9	57.6	54.0	55.5	65.9	46.1	31.5	2,108
Other urban	94.8	81.9	73.0	66.8	62.2	60.0	65.3	46.6	31.2	1,816
Other rural	93.9	92.0	85.5	84.9	87.6	79.6	65.5	57.2	50.3	1,773
Residence										
Urban	93.2	79.5	70.5	62.3	57.6	57.2	65.7	46.4	30.5	3,572
Rural	93.9	91.9	85.1	84.8	87.6	79.5	65.4	56.7	50.0	2,125
Age										
15–19	89.9	80.3	72.4	71.2	72.7	63.9	41.8	52.0	40.4	1,094
20–24	93.4	85.0	75.1	76.3	70.2	69.1	58.2	49.6	40.0	936
25–29	94.1	87.1	80.9	75.7	71.2	72.1	70.8	55.3	44.0	946
30–34	96.4	88.3	79.0	76.1	75.3	74.0	75.1	53.3	44.6	1,067
35–39	95.2	89.2	83.8	75.7	78.6	71.7	76.5	54.0	41.5	958
40–44	94.0	92.2	84.9	77.4	81.7	71.0	79.9	49.9	40.1	696
Marital Status										
Currently Married	94.7	90.7	83.5	79.3	77.9	74.3	76.4	55.1	44.8	3,965
Previously Married	91.2	84.7	76.6	74.3	74.7	70.8	71.7	66.3	42.4	88
Never Married	91.7	78.5	69.9	67.0	68.5	61.3	43.4	45.9	35.3	1,644
Number of Living Children										
0	91.8	79.7	71.0	68.4	69.0	62.7	46.0	48.0	37.2	1,943
1	93.0	89.0	81.6	80.4	70.5	75.3	74.7	58.3	46.6	828
2	95.9	88.4	81.1	74.2	74.0	69.6	75.6	51.1	38.9	1,840
3 or more	94.3	94.7	87.9	84.8	87.9	79.6	81.0	57.6	49.8	1,086
Educational Level										
Primary or less	93.3	93.2	85.5	86.7	87.2	82.5	64.5	62.4	55.4	2,519
Secondary	94.2	83.5	74.9	67.8	66.2	59.7	66.6	44.0	29.0	2,483
Postsecondary	93.0	57.4	53.3	33.0	31.9	34.4	67.0	23.6	9.7	695
Socioeconomic Status										
Low	93.5	92.7	84.8	84.7	87.6	80.6	65.6	60.0	54.0	1,940
Middle	94.1	84.3	76.6	71.7	69.4	65.4	65.2	48.7	34.6	2,985
High	91.7	69.6	62.4	47.1	40.6	42.7	66.9	34.6	20.8	772
Religion*										
Muslim	93.4	87.9	79.9	76.9	76.6	72.0	65.4	52.9	43.3	4,568
Orthodox										
Christian	94.9	75.7	69.9	59.2	55.7	49.9	69.0	36.5	22.8	531
Catholic	94.1	86.7	79.6	77.2	77.0	72.4	62.9	61.4	45.2	530

* Excludes 68 women of other or undeclared religion.

Table 10.9 B
Percentage Who Agree with Statements on Gender Norms
by Selected Characteristics Among Men Aged 15–49
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania, 2002

Characteristic	Husband Should Help With Chores	Main Job of Woman is Housework	All People Should Marry	Can Get Pregnant at First Sex	Woman Should be Virgin at Marriage	If Woman Works, All Money to Husband	Need Husband's Permission To Work	Men Have Final Say in Family	Child Care Is A Woman's Job	No. of Cases
Total	85.2	84.7	84.2	70.5	67.9	64.1	64.1	37.0	35.9	1,740
Strata										
Metro Tirana	79.8	76.8	74.5	69.5	55.5	53.8	55.4	37.3	37.1	718
Other urban	87.4	80.5	79.9	75.4	54.7	59.7	61.1	27.8	31.0	547
Other rural	86.1	90.3	90.5	68.0	80.6	70.8	69.3	42.3	38.4	475
Residence										
Urban	85.2	79.0	77.7	72.9	54.2	58.0	56.8	30.3	32.4	1,155
Rural	85.2	89.7	90.0	68.5	79.8	69.5	70.5	42.7	39.0	585
Age										
15–19	83.3	78.7	85.9	40.4	58.7	55.4	53.9	41.2	38.4	401
20–24	83.0	76.0	80.6	67.0	52.8	63.8	59.2	31.3	34.2	189
25–29	86.6	86.1	81.6	75.0	61.6	60.8	65.5	34.6	32.4	218
30–34	86.9	84.2	83.9	81.3	70.3	61.3	65.3	31.1	30.2	253
35–39	87.0	90.5	82.1	80.0	75.3	66.2	65.6	37.5	37.7	255
40–44	86.2	90.5	86.1	84.7	78.7	71.2	71.7	36.9	35.0	277
45–49	84.0	90.4	89.1	77.5	84.0	74.7	73.2	46.2	43.8	147
Marital Status										
Currently Married	86.1	88.9	86.8	79.4	78.7	68.5	69.8	38.0	36.5	1,023
Previously Married	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	14
Never Married	83.6	78.1	80.2	56.5	51.1	57.1	55.2	35.1	35.1	703
Number of Living Children										
0	83.8	79.0	80.7	57.8	53.6	58.9	56.8	35.1	35.6	815
1	89.1	86.3	83.6	79.6	70.2	65.7	69.5	33.9	33.6	221
2	88.5	88.4	84.7	84.1	76.4	64.9	68.3	35.5	36.5	468
3 or more	81.9	93.1	92.4	78.1	90.4	75.1	73.5	45.6	37.5	236
Educational Level										
Primary or Less	83.6	90.0	88.0	69.2	78.7	71.8	73.1	50.0	44.5	689
Secondary	85.5	83.3	83.1	70.0	63.6	60.2	59.7	26.9	30.1	825
Postsecondary	92.5	63.4	68.1	80.2	30.3	42.0	37.1	14.5	17.5	226
Socioeconomic Status										
Low	85.4	92.0	88.3	69.4	79.6	72.0	69.2	47.9	44.6	638
Middle	85.4	80.5	82.4	71.0	60.3	59.1	61.3	29.3	30.3	814
High	83.7	68.9	72.8	73.8	46.0	49.3	52.8	18.7	19.7	288
Religion*										
Muslim	85.1	87.1	85.1	64.9	70.6	69.2	64.7	36.0	38.4	1,422
Orthodox Christian	85.4	68.3	73.4	56.2	43.1	77.6	57.3	32.6	23.2	181
Catholic	87.5	83.1	84.1	66.0	67.5	73.1	65.8	38.9	35.0	76

* Excludes 61 men of other or undeclared religion.

**Percentages are not shown when base is less than 25 cases.

Table 10.10
Percent Distribution of Opinion on Who Should Decide How Many Children A Couple Will Have
by Selected Characteristics Among Women Aged 15–44 and Men Aged 15–49
Reproductive Health Survey: Albania 2002

Women Aged 15–44						
Decision Maker	Residence			Education Level		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Primary	Secondary	Post Secondary
The Woman	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.6	0.6	1.6
The Man	1.4	0.7	1.9	2.4	0.4	0.0
Both	95.9	96.9	95.2	94.0	98.1	97.9
The Mother-in-Law	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
God	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.9	0.7	0.5
Don't Know	0.7	0.2	1.0	1.1	0.2	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Cases	5,697	3,572	2,125	2,519	2,483	695

Men Aged 15–49						
Decision Maker	Residence			Education Level		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Primary	Secondary	Post Secondary
The Woman	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.6	0.3
The Man	5.9	4.0	7.5	9.0	3.2	2.3
Both	88.7	91.6	86.2	84.8	91.3	97.2
The Mother-in-Law	1.5	0.7	2.3	0.9	2.6	0.0
God	3.2	2.9	3.4	4.5	2.2	0.2
Don't Know	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Cases	1,740	1,155	585	689	825	226